

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,120

2

00:00:04,120 --> 00:00:06,820

This is an interview for the
US Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:06,820 --> 00:00:08,380

volunteer collection.

4

00:00:08,380 --> 00:00:10,810

We are interviewing
Guta Jacobson.

5

00:00:10,810 --> 00:00:12,730

My name is Esther Finder.

6

00:00:12,730 --> 00:00:14,440

The interview was in
Rockville, Maryland,

7

00:00:14,440 --> 00:00:16,210

and the language
will be English.

8

00:00:16,210 --> 00:00:19,030

Can you tell me, what
was your name at birth?

9

00:00:19,030 --> 00:00:22,030

My name was Guta Rogowitz.

10

00:00:22,030 --> 00:00:24,140

Could you spell your
last name for me?

11

00:00:24,140 --> 00:00:33,330

R-O-G-O-W-T-Z.

12

00:00:33,330 --> 00:00:35,170

Were you born and where?

13

00:00:35,170 --> 00:00:43,480

I was born in Lodz

April 23, 1925.

14

00:00:43,480 --> 00:00:46,990

Can you tell me

your parents' names?

15

00:00:46,990 --> 00:00:51,676

My mother was No'ah,

Noah, and my--

16

00:00:51,676 --> 00:00:57,760

my father was Noah, and my

mother was Chaya Rogowitz.

17

00:00:57,760 --> 00:01:01,030

Her maiden name was Steinfeld.

18

00:01:01,030 --> 00:01:02,630

Do you have any

brothers or sisters?

19

00:01:02,630 --> 00:01:04,870

I have three sisters besides me.

20

00:01:04,870 --> 00:01:10,390

I had-- besides me, so

we were four together.

21

00:01:10,390 --> 00:01:14,860

One got killed, and we

survived, three of us.

22

00:01:14,860 --> 00:01:16,840

Can you tell me their names?

23

00:01:16,840 --> 00:01:20,260

Esther, Bella, and Guta.

24

00:01:20,260 --> 00:01:25,150

That's the oldest, which
is-- her life is Esther.

25
00:01:25,150 --> 00:01:30,070
The middle one is Bella,
and I'm the youngest, Guta.

26
00:01:30,070 --> 00:01:33,260
And the name of the sibling
that did not survive?

27
00:01:33,260 --> 00:01:33,760
Hanna.

28
00:01:33,760 --> 00:01:40,970

29
00:01:40,970 --> 00:01:43,580
Where did you grow up?

30
00:01:43,580 --> 00:01:46,910
In Poland, in Lodz.

31
00:01:46,910 --> 00:01:51,080
Can you tell me what Lodz
was like in your childhood?

32
00:01:51,080 --> 00:01:55,130
Well, as young as
I was, I belonged

33
00:01:55,130 --> 00:01:59,660
to a organization,
HaNoar HaTzioni,

34
00:01:59,660 --> 00:02:07,230
and we really got to know at
that time what Palestine meant.

35
00:02:07,230 --> 00:02:09,940
I was quite--

36

00:02:09,940 --> 00:02:12,180

I don't know if I
was 11 years old when

37

00:02:12,180 --> 00:02:15,180

I started to go to the HaNoar.

38

00:02:15,180 --> 00:02:20,520

It was a very nice
group of youngsters.

39

00:02:20,520 --> 00:02:22,110

We worked very nicely.

40

00:02:22,110 --> 00:02:24,250

We learn a lot.

41

00:02:24,250 --> 00:02:27,980

And until 1939 we went
to the Lodz Ghetto.

42

00:02:27,980 --> 00:02:30,880

43

00:02:30,880 --> 00:02:35,620

Can you describe what
Lodz the city was like?

44

00:02:35,620 --> 00:02:37,930

Was it a big city?

45

00:02:37,930 --> 00:02:41,080

Well, Lodz was a
very, very big city,

46

00:02:41,080 --> 00:02:44,590

and it was a prosperous city.

47

00:02:44,590 --> 00:02:47,440

48

00:02:47,440 --> 00:02:54,070

My father was a textile, and
that was very high in textile.

49
00:02:54,070 --> 00:02:59,300
I went to school,
the public school.

50
00:02:59,300 --> 00:03:03,890
I had a beautiful
religious home.

51
00:03:03,890 --> 00:03:09,230
My mother was
wearing a wig, quite

52
00:03:09,230 --> 00:03:15,490
observant in Jewish religion,
and that's how I was raised.

53
00:03:15,490 --> 00:03:17,530
Were there many
Jews in the town?

54
00:03:17,530 --> 00:03:24,610
A lot of Jews, a lot of Jews,
bustling with Jews and stores.

55
00:03:24,610 --> 00:03:26,320
But I was young.

56
00:03:26,320 --> 00:03:29,080
I wasn't so interested
in these things.

57
00:03:29,080 --> 00:03:32,510
We had a nice home.

58
00:03:32,510 --> 00:03:34,670
In your childhood, what
were the relationships

59
00:03:34,670 --> 00:03:39,140
like between the Jews and

the Christians in the town?

60

00:03:39,140 --> 00:03:42,960

Strange, a little strange.

61

00:03:42,960 --> 00:03:50,150

I lived [PLACE NAME]

23 [PLACE NAME],,

62

00:03:50,150 --> 00:03:55,160

and I lived among a
lot of Christians.

63

00:03:55,160 --> 00:03:59,240

In fact, when I came back
from concentration camp

64

00:03:59,240 --> 00:04:03,935

after the war, I went
to the Christian.

65

00:04:03,935 --> 00:04:07,220

I was with my sister,
with middle sister,

66

00:04:07,220 --> 00:04:12,920

and they were wondering
that we are still alive.

67

00:04:12,920 --> 00:04:17,660

I received letters
from them because we

68

00:04:17,660 --> 00:04:21,320

weren't there anymore.

69

00:04:21,320 --> 00:04:23,780

But I didn't want
to stay among them.

70

00:04:23,780 --> 00:04:25,910

My aim was to go to Palestine.

71

00:04:25,910 --> 00:04:29,160

72

00:04:29,160 --> 00:04:32,250

Before the war, did you
experience any antisemitism?

73

00:04:32,250 --> 00:04:35,010

No, I was too young for that.

74

00:04:35,010 --> 00:04:37,980

I was 13 years old.

75

00:04:37,980 --> 00:04:42,990

I didn't experience too many
antisemitism, not too much,

76

00:04:42,990 --> 00:04:50,500

not-- well, I lived in an
affluent place in Lodz,

77

00:04:50,500 --> 00:04:52,420

and I didn't--

78

00:04:52,420 --> 00:04:54,265

in school you would ask--

79

00:04:54,265 --> 00:04:58,000

80

00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:06,430

I was a Jew, and in
fact, I liked my teacher.

81

00:05:06,430 --> 00:05:10,540

and I always was
carrying her bags home,

82

00:05:10,540 --> 00:05:14,978

and I didn't really experience
too much antisemitism.

83

00:05:14,978 --> 00:05:17,850

84

00:05:17,850 --> 00:05:19,890

You mentioned that your
father was in textiles,

85

00:05:19,890 --> 00:05:21,310

was a textile manufacturer?

86

00:05:21,310 --> 00:05:21,930

Yes.

87

00:05:21,930 --> 00:05:23,190

What work did your mother do?

88

00:05:23,190 --> 00:05:25,960

89

00:05:25,960 --> 00:05:29,280

My mother didn't work.

90

00:05:29,280 --> 00:05:32,040

She was a little--

91

00:05:32,040 --> 00:05:38,430

selling certain things, like
home things, but a regular job

92

00:05:38,430 --> 00:05:42,430

she never had, not
that I remember.

93

00:05:42,430 --> 00:05:43,675

She was just a homemaker?

94

00:05:43,675 --> 00:05:45,218

She was just a homemaker, yeah.

95

00:05:45,218 --> 00:05:48,360

96
00:05:48,360 --> 00:05:50,790
What jobs and responsibilities
did you children

97
00:05:50,790 --> 00:05:53,460
have in your household?

98
00:05:53,460 --> 00:05:54,510
My own children?

99
00:05:54,510 --> 00:05:55,010
No, you.

100
00:05:55,010 --> 00:05:57,930
When you were a child, what
were some of your chores

101
00:05:57,930 --> 00:06:01,470
or your jobs were on the house?

102
00:06:01,470 --> 00:06:07,290
Before the war, I didn't have
any special responsibilities.

103
00:06:07,290 --> 00:06:11,190
Yes, I did have one responsible,
which I'll never forget.

104
00:06:11,190 --> 00:06:16,080
I had to come home-- we only
had school to 1:00 that time.

105
00:06:16,080 --> 00:06:19,560
I had to come home,
and my oldest sister,

106
00:06:19,560 --> 00:06:21,150
which they killed--

107
00:06:21,150 --> 00:06:27,300
she worked with my father

in a textile factory.

108
00:06:27,300 --> 00:06:30,090
I had to take lunch for her.

109
00:06:30,090 --> 00:06:34,050
That time was dinner,
but we ate lunch 1:00.

110
00:06:34,050 --> 00:06:37,230
So it had to be very
hot, that lunch,

111
00:06:37,230 --> 00:06:43,950
and I had to go and take to the
shop for her lunch five times

112
00:06:43,950 --> 00:06:46,420
a week after school.

113
00:06:46,420 --> 00:06:52,020
I threw down my briefcase,
and I ran with the lunch.

114
00:06:52,020 --> 00:06:53,250
This I'll never forget.

115
00:06:53,250 --> 00:06:57,240
But my sister gave
me \$0.25, yeah.

116
00:06:57,240 --> 00:07:04,020
But she expected me to
go with the trolley car,

117
00:07:04,020 --> 00:07:05,820
but I never went
with the trolley car

118
00:07:05,820 --> 00:07:09,000
because I needed an ice cream.

119

00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:12,840

So I took the \$0.25,
and I had an ice cream.

120

00:07:12,840 --> 00:07:15,820

But she was the nicest
person you ever could--

121

00:07:15,820 --> 00:07:19,440

I'll never forget that sister
because I was the baby,

122

00:07:19,440 --> 00:07:20,680

and she was the oldest.

123

00:07:20,680 --> 00:07:28,890

124

00:07:28,890 --> 00:07:32,460

Did you have any formal
Jewish education?

125

00:07:32,460 --> 00:07:35,190

No.

126

00:07:35,190 --> 00:07:38,670

You said you came from a
religiously observant family.

127

00:07:38,670 --> 00:07:41,590

Did you have a favorite
holiday when you were a child?

128

00:07:41,590 --> 00:07:44,970

I was terribly
afraid of Yom Kippur,

129

00:07:44,970 --> 00:07:48,630

but my favorite
holiday was Passover.

130

00:07:48,630 --> 00:07:53,310

That was the time when I got

new shoes and new clothes,

131

00:07:53,310 --> 00:07:56,460
and I was dressed
from head to toe.

132

00:07:56,460 --> 00:07:58,890
And that was the nicest time.

133

00:07:58,890 --> 00:08:01,900
I'll never forget
Passover at home,

134

00:08:01,900 --> 00:08:06,030
although I never
stayed up for the Seder

135

00:08:06,030 --> 00:08:08,500
because it was much
too late for me.

136

00:08:08,500 --> 00:08:11,920
But I remember the hustling
and the bustling for Seder.

137

00:08:11,920 --> 00:08:17,070

138

00:08:17,070 --> 00:08:21,310
What did you do for fun
when you were not in school?

139

00:08:21,310 --> 00:08:23,040
I belonged to the organization.

140

00:08:23,040 --> 00:08:25,770

141

00:08:25,770 --> 00:08:30,820
Mostly we met at Saturdays
because at night I

142

00:08:30,820 --> 00:08:34,000
was not allowed to go out,
after 10:00, after 9:00.

143
00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:36,559

144
00:08:36,559 --> 00:08:44,300
And we was dancing Horahs
and singing Hebrew songs,

145
00:08:44,300 --> 00:08:46,520
which I still remember.

146
00:08:46,520 --> 00:08:50,870
And that was nice, a nice group.

147
00:08:50,870 --> 00:08:52,640
What songs did you sing?

148
00:08:52,640 --> 00:08:57,290
Hava Nagila, all kind--

149
00:08:57,290 --> 00:09:02,760
off-hand I cannot remember,
but very nice with the Horah.

150
00:09:02,760 --> 00:09:05,480

151
00:09:05,480 --> 00:09:08,850
What did you do other than
your time with the group?

152
00:09:08,850 --> 00:09:13,460
What did you individually
do for fun or for relaxation

153
00:09:13,460 --> 00:09:15,620
in your free time?

154
00:09:15,620 --> 00:09:18,470

I was too young to
do, really, anything.

155
00:09:18,470 --> 00:09:22,880
I played with the
girls downstairs,

156
00:09:22,880 --> 00:09:26,540
and there was a lot
Gentile people there.

157
00:09:26,540 --> 00:09:28,160
I played with them.

158
00:09:28,160 --> 00:09:30,975
I never encountered
the Jew story.

159
00:09:30,975 --> 00:09:36,890

160
00:09:36,890 --> 00:09:39,020
Before the war, did
you have any idea what

161
00:09:39,020 --> 00:09:41,873
was going on in Germany with--

162
00:09:41,873 --> 00:09:44,090
No, no, no.

163
00:09:44,090 --> 00:09:46,280
I had no idea.

164
00:09:46,280 --> 00:09:54,290
I only know that
1939 we left Lodz.

165
00:09:54,290 --> 00:09:59,450
It was summer, and we
went to our summer place.

166

00:09:59,450 --> 00:10:02,270
Like we go here to the mountain.

167
00:10:02,270 --> 00:10:06,830
And my father came
with a horse and buggy

168
00:10:06,830 --> 00:10:10,790
and took us home
before the time,

169
00:10:10,790 --> 00:10:14,280
and I was supposed to go
to September to school,

170
00:10:14,280 --> 00:10:16,130
so I never went back.

171
00:10:16,130 --> 00:10:23,360
And they said that Poland
is going to be in war.

172
00:10:23,360 --> 00:10:28,700
And I read what a war meant,
but I didn't observe that much.

173
00:10:28,700 --> 00:10:33,820

174
00:10:33,820 --> 00:10:36,760
Did you have any opportunity--

175
00:10:36,760 --> 00:10:39,040
you or your family
have any opportunity--

176
00:10:39,040 --> 00:10:42,640
to speak to anybody who had fled
from Germany before the war,

177
00:10:42,640 --> 00:10:44,440
any Jewish refugees
or anybody who have

178
00:10:44,440 --> 00:10:46,660
been asked to leave Germany?

179
00:10:46,660 --> 00:10:50,600
Not that I know about it.

180
00:10:50,600 --> 00:10:53,060
Had you heard about
Kristallnacht?

181
00:10:53,060 --> 00:10:53,780
Kristallnacht?

182
00:10:53,780 --> 00:10:57,430
No, I only heard after the war.

183
00:10:57,430 --> 00:10:59,830
In Berlin, you mean.

184
00:10:59,830 --> 00:11:03,550
Yeah, after the war
I heard about it.

185
00:11:03,550 --> 00:11:07,070
When you did hear that
war might be imminent

186
00:11:07,070 --> 00:11:10,750
or that there might
be a war coming,

187
00:11:10,750 --> 00:11:14,590
how was that explained to you
by the adults, your parents

188
00:11:14,590 --> 00:11:16,150
and other adults?

189
00:11:16,150 --> 00:11:21,130
Well, since my mother went
through World War One,

190

00:11:21,130 --> 00:11:25,780

she was very much
afraid of the war.

191

00:11:25,780 --> 00:11:28,030

We didn't observe
that much, that we're

192

00:11:28,030 --> 00:11:30,280

going to be so much persecuted.

193

00:11:30,280 --> 00:11:33,340

We knew that Hitler
doesn't like the Jews,

194

00:11:33,340 --> 00:11:38,950

that he was burning the
synagogues in Germany,

195

00:11:38,950 --> 00:11:42,550

but it will never come
to us this way, no.

196

00:11:42,550 --> 00:11:49,570

That was the only thing that I
knew until Hitler came to us.

197

00:11:49,570 --> 00:11:51,320

Before we get to the
beginning of the war,

198

00:11:51,320 --> 00:11:53,090

I want you to stop
for just a minute.

199

00:11:53,090 --> 00:11:55,970

Is there anything
about your childhood

200

00:11:55,970 --> 00:12:00,250

that you would
like to talk about,

201
00:12:00,250 --> 00:12:03,160
any other memories, any
experiences that stand out

202
00:12:03,160 --> 00:12:06,940
in your mind, special moments?

203
00:12:06,940 --> 00:12:10,630
The special moment was
when I went with my mother

204
00:12:10,630 --> 00:12:13,360
to the synagogue to the shul.

205
00:12:13,360 --> 00:12:15,970
I'll never forget this.

206
00:12:15,970 --> 00:12:19,990
First of all, my father
was a [? Kohen ?],,

207
00:12:19,990 --> 00:12:24,700
and I'll never forget that he
was dressed in a white kittel,

208
00:12:24,700 --> 00:12:26,140
they call it.

209
00:12:26,140 --> 00:12:29,500
I was terribly afraid
for that, terribly.

210
00:12:29,500 --> 00:12:33,880
Until today, when I go to
shul and I see these kittels,

211
00:12:33,880 --> 00:12:35,210
I'm terribly afraid.

212
00:12:35,210 --> 00:12:38,280
I thought that

he's going to die.

213

00:12:38,280 --> 00:12:39,840

I'll never forget this.

214

00:12:39,840 --> 00:12:46,350

Otherwise, the holidays in
the house, that preparation

215

00:12:46,350 --> 00:12:48,000

for the holidays--

216

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:52,380

my mother used to
make her own wine--

217

00:12:52,380 --> 00:12:58,290

I'll never forget--
from cherries,

218

00:12:58,290 --> 00:13:01,080

and the other one was raisins.

219

00:13:01,080 --> 00:13:04,140

I helped a lot with that.

220

00:13:04,140 --> 00:13:06,120

Friday-- I'll never forget--

221

00:13:06,120 --> 00:13:10,770

I had to take the
tshulnt to the oven.

222

00:13:10,770 --> 00:13:13,710

There was one
bakery close to us,

223

00:13:13,710 --> 00:13:16,200

and I used to take the
tshulnt to the oven.

224

00:13:16,200 --> 00:13:19,920

But Saturday I had to bring
the tshulnt because Mama said,

225
00:13:19,920 --> 00:13:20,910
you took the tshulnt.

226
00:13:20,910 --> 00:13:23,490
You have to bring
back the tshulnt.

227
00:13:23,490 --> 00:13:25,200
I'll never forget this.

228
00:13:25,200 --> 00:13:27,982

229
00:13:27,982 --> 00:13:29,860
It was nice.

230
00:13:29,860 --> 00:13:31,390
It was nice.

231
00:13:31,390 --> 00:13:33,010
Then I'll never forget Paice.

232
00:13:33,010 --> 00:13:36,260

233
00:13:36,260 --> 00:13:44,120
The dishes, the changing of
the dishes, and the stove--

234
00:13:44,120 --> 00:13:46,910
I'll remember-- I speak boldly.

235
00:13:46,910 --> 00:13:52,380
I remember how she took the--

236
00:13:52,380 --> 00:14:04,220
she glued stones, and she put
on the oven those glued stones.

237

00:14:04,220 --> 00:14:07,040

It should be Passover.

238

00:14:07,040 --> 00:14:09,770

I'll remember the matzahs.

239

00:14:09,770 --> 00:14:16,310

We used to put the matzahs
in a big pillowcase, all

240

00:14:16,310 --> 00:14:24,130

the matzahs, and so many
eggs, [YIDDISH] of eggs.

241

00:14:24,130 --> 00:14:28,840

It wasn't dozens, a [YIDDISH]
is more than a dozen.

242

00:14:28,840 --> 00:14:31,960

And what else could I tell you?

243

00:14:31,960 --> 00:14:34,270

I was busy that
time because I had

244

00:14:34,270 --> 00:14:36,910

to go with my mother
to schlep all that

245

00:14:36,910 --> 00:14:42,520

and to help her, yes, because
the other sisters were working.

246

00:14:42,520 --> 00:14:44,950

Tell me about your
relationship with your sisters

247

00:14:44,950 --> 00:14:45,730

before the war.

248

00:14:45,730 --> 00:14:48,220

Since you were the youngest,

what kinds of things

249

00:14:48,220 --> 00:14:50,590

did you and your sisters
talk about and dream about

250

00:14:50,590 --> 00:14:52,510

for your future?

251

00:14:52,510 --> 00:14:54,340

They only wanted me--

252

00:14:54,340 --> 00:14:55,900

I was quite good in school.

253

00:14:55,900 --> 00:14:58,640

254

00:14:58,640 --> 00:15:03,240

To be honest, my two older
sisters never went to school.

255

00:15:03,240 --> 00:15:05,490

They were homebound.

256

00:15:05,490 --> 00:15:10,710

Like they would say today,
they learned by themselves,

257

00:15:10,710 --> 00:15:13,900

and believe me, they
learned so much.

258

00:15:13,900 --> 00:15:16,230

They were good mathematicians.

259

00:15:16,230 --> 00:15:19,530

I was really the only
one, with my other sister,

260

00:15:19,530 --> 00:15:23,910

who went to school,

regular public school.

261

00:15:23,910 --> 00:15:30,120

They wanted me to
be only secretaries,

262

00:15:30,120 --> 00:15:33,150

and my older sister
would bring--

263

00:15:33,150 --> 00:15:38,050

they only called me [YIDDISH]
because I was the youngest.

264

00:15:38,050 --> 00:15:45,270

She brought me chocolate and
always brought me something

265

00:15:45,270 --> 00:15:51,210

and always gave me money because
she was the one who made money.

266

00:15:51,210 --> 00:15:53,073

Can you translate what
you said in Yiddish

267

00:15:53,073 --> 00:15:54,240

with your sister called you?

268

00:15:54,240 --> 00:15:55,800

What was the word that you used?

269

00:15:55,800 --> 00:15:58,710

The [YIDDISH], the baby.

270

00:15:58,710 --> 00:15:59,430

That's all.

271

00:15:59,430 --> 00:16:02,910

I never had a name, probably.

272

00:16:02,910 --> 00:16:04,830

I only was called the baby.

273

00:16:04,830 --> 00:16:06,630

That's why when I called--

274

00:16:06,630 --> 00:16:08,950

this is my baby.

275

00:16:08,950 --> 00:16:10,920

I have two other children.

276

00:16:10,920 --> 00:16:14,070

Steve is my baby,
and the only man--

277

00:16:14,070 --> 00:16:17,040

I say I don't know any
other way because that's

278

00:16:17,040 --> 00:16:17,860

how I was raised.

279

00:16:17,860 --> 00:16:24,570

280

00:16:24,570 --> 00:16:27,540

At the beginning
of the war, what

281

00:16:27,540 --> 00:16:31,660

was your first indication
that war had begun?

282

00:16:31,660 --> 00:16:35,540

283

00:16:35,540 --> 00:16:42,530

The first indication was, before
the Germans came into Poland--

284

00:16:42,530 --> 00:16:47,210

it took eight days for

them to come into Poland.

285

00:16:47,210 --> 00:16:50,350

The war went on eight
days or 10 days, something

286

00:16:50,350 --> 00:16:55,730

like that, until the
Germans walked into Poland.

287

00:16:55,730 --> 00:16:57,800

Did you mean into
your part of Poland?

288

00:16:57,800 --> 00:16:59,120

Yeah, in Lodz.

289

00:16:59,120 --> 00:17:03,450

290

00:17:03,450 --> 00:17:09,390

But when they put on
us the [NON-ENGLISH],,

291

00:17:09,390 --> 00:17:19,349

the yellow bands, then
I couldn't accept it.

292

00:17:19,349 --> 00:17:24,240

Let's go back to your very first
encounter with the Germans.

293

00:17:24,240 --> 00:17:28,500

Tell me about the Nazi
invasion and your first glimpse

294

00:17:28,500 --> 00:17:30,120

of this war.

295

00:17:30,120 --> 00:17:34,920

Just happened that
I lived on one

296

00:17:34,920 --> 00:17:39,180

side of the street
where I lived.

297

00:17:39,180 --> 00:17:44,640

Across the street was one of the
biggest and the most prominent

298

00:17:44,640 --> 00:17:47,220

built house in my time.

299

00:17:47,220 --> 00:17:51,270

I saw when they put the first
foundation, [? Sulejmanowic ?]

300

00:17:51,270 --> 00:17:52,620

house.

301

00:17:52,620 --> 00:17:56,910

And when the Germans took
over this house and I

302

00:17:56,910 --> 00:17:59,970

saw them for my window
across the street--

303

00:17:59,970 --> 00:18:04,200

that was the first thing, and
my mother always pushed me away

304

00:18:04,200 --> 00:18:05,430

from the windows.

305

00:18:05,430 --> 00:18:08,520

They shouldn't see me,
and I shouldn't see them.

306

00:18:08,520 --> 00:18:13,230

That was the first
awful, awful impression.

307

00:18:13,230 --> 00:18:15,900

And there was only soldiers.

308

00:18:15,900 --> 00:18:19,590

Officers were living
in that house.

309

00:18:19,590 --> 00:18:24,390

They evacuated everybody,
and they occupied that house.

310

00:18:24,390 --> 00:18:25,770

This I'll never forget.

311

00:18:25,770 --> 00:18:29,175

That was the most beautiful
house in Lodz, that building.

312

00:18:29,175 --> 00:18:33,050

313

00:18:33,050 --> 00:18:35,510

You mentioned the armbands.

314

00:18:35,510 --> 00:18:37,580

What other changes were
imposed on the Jews

315

00:18:37,580 --> 00:18:40,460

when the Germans came in?

316

00:18:40,460 --> 00:18:42,590

The curfew.

317

00:18:42,590 --> 00:18:44,820

We had a curfew.

318

00:18:44,820 --> 00:18:49,580

We were not allowed
to go out at dawn,

319

00:18:49,580 --> 00:18:53,210

and I wanted to go out to play.

320
00:18:53,210 --> 00:18:57,080
What do you mean they're
not going to let me go out?

321
00:18:57,080 --> 00:18:59,780
I didn't do nothing.

322
00:18:59,780 --> 00:19:03,890
So my mother used
to keep us at home.

323
00:19:03,890 --> 00:19:08,750
And then food shortage--

324
00:19:08,750 --> 00:19:11,090
we couldn't buy food, no, no.

325
00:19:11,090 --> 00:19:14,270
The stores were closed.

326
00:19:14,270 --> 00:19:17,940
The Jewish butchers
were closed immediately,

327
00:19:17,940 --> 00:19:22,850
and my mother couldn't eat any
other meat than kosher meat.

328
00:19:22,850 --> 00:19:30,760
So the hunger set in
until a year later,

329
00:19:30,760 --> 00:19:35,560
1940, when they took
us to Lodz Ghetto.

330
00:19:35,560 --> 00:19:36,550
We had to leave home.

331
00:19:36,550 --> 00:19:40,640

332
00:19:40,640 --> 00:19:43,280
What were some of the
changes that the Germans

333
00:19:43,280 --> 00:19:45,770
made with respect to the Poles?

334
00:19:45,770 --> 00:19:50,130
What changes were imposed on
the Polish Christian population?

335
00:19:50,130 --> 00:19:52,820
Well, the Christian
population, to compare--

336
00:19:52,820 --> 00:19:56,420
because I lived with Christians,
as I mentioned before,

337
00:19:56,420 --> 00:19:59,370
in one house.

338
00:19:59,370 --> 00:20:00,990
They had the freedom.

339
00:20:00,990 --> 00:20:05,200
Hey could have went
any place they wanted.

340
00:20:05,200 --> 00:20:07,350
We lost-- we didn't have it.

341
00:20:07,350 --> 00:20:17,320
I felt that the most because we
little quite intelligent girls,

342
00:20:17,320 --> 00:20:21,070
and I couldn't see that.

343
00:20:21,070 --> 00:20:26,020
And they start to separate

themselves from the Jews.

344

00:20:26,020 --> 00:20:29,870

I felt that in my own
house where we lived.

345

00:20:29,870 --> 00:20:31,360

We didn't own a house.

346

00:20:31,360 --> 00:20:36,940

We lived in an apartment house,
we lived in a rented apartment.

347

00:20:36,940 --> 00:20:42,620

They separated us
from them right away.

348

00:20:42,620 --> 00:20:49,090

In fact, downstairs
it was a drugstore.

349

00:20:49,090 --> 00:20:52,420

By us, downstairs,
it was a drugstore.

350

00:20:52,420 --> 00:20:55,870

The Germans took everything
out from that drugstore.

351

00:20:55,870 --> 00:20:58,135

I don't know if it
belongs to a Jew.

352

00:20:58,135 --> 00:20:59,620

I cannot really say.

353

00:20:59,620 --> 00:21:03,720

354

00:21:03,720 --> 00:21:06,520

So right away we
couldn't get any food,

355

00:21:06,520 --> 00:21:11,280

although my mother
used to prepare

356

00:21:11,280 --> 00:21:16,140

potatoes, and flour, and sugar.

357

00:21:16,140 --> 00:21:18,870

She prepared all that.

358

00:21:18,870 --> 00:21:23,430

But you couldn't go into
the store and buy anything.

359

00:21:23,430 --> 00:21:29,910

We were afraid to walk because
everybody recognized us.

360

00:21:29,910 --> 00:21:31,450

Even my own friends--

361

00:21:31,450 --> 00:21:40,310

I played with them
in the backyard--

362

00:21:40,310 --> 00:21:45,170

they stood away from me like
they wouldn't know me anymore.

363

00:21:45,170 --> 00:21:51,060

And I couldn't comprehend
in my young girl mind what

364

00:21:51,060 --> 00:21:54,794

did I do, why, what did I do.

365

00:21:54,794 --> 00:21:57,570

366

00:21:57,570 --> 00:21:59,552

Did your parents explain
any of this to you?

367
00:21:59,552 --> 00:22:01,240
No.

368
00:22:01,240 --> 00:22:05,590
They didn't want to
fright us, especially me.

369
00:22:05,590 --> 00:22:07,140
They didn't want to fright us.

370
00:22:07,140 --> 00:22:09,510
Maybe the older children--

371
00:22:09,510 --> 00:22:13,420
my oldest sister
was married, and I

372
00:22:13,420 --> 00:22:15,390
remember going to her wedding.

373
00:22:15,390 --> 00:22:19,860
And she left home
before Hitler came.

374
00:22:19,860 --> 00:22:23,280
She left Lodz
before Hitler came.

375
00:22:23,280 --> 00:22:27,690
She had a family in Demblin, and
she went to the family there.

376
00:22:27,690 --> 00:22:31,560
Over there she gave
birth to a boy.

377
00:22:31,560 --> 00:22:36,810
We never saw that child,
and know this from--

378
00:22:36,810 --> 00:22:43,220

but we knew after that they
took her away with the child,

379
00:22:43,220 --> 00:22:44,630
probably to Auschwitz.

380
00:22:44,630 --> 00:22:45,800
We don't know.

381
00:22:45,800 --> 00:22:50,650

382
00:22:50,650 --> 00:22:52,430
What else sticks
out in your mind

383
00:22:52,430 --> 00:22:55,480
from the first few
months of the war,

384
00:22:55,480 --> 00:22:57,805
before the formation
of the ghetto?

385
00:22:57,805 --> 00:23:00,430
Is there anything else that you
can think to mention that you--

386
00:23:00,430 --> 00:23:04,480
I could think that my
father approached us.

387
00:23:04,480 --> 00:23:14,300
We should leave Poland to go to
Russia, like many other people.

388
00:23:14,300 --> 00:23:16,690
But my mother says,
if you want to--

389
00:23:16,690 --> 00:23:18,380
I'll never forget.

390

00:23:18,380 --> 00:23:19,870

If you want to go, go.

391

00:23:19,870 --> 00:23:23,350

He says, so give
me at least Bella,

392

00:23:23,350 --> 00:23:25,970

not the youngest,
the next, he says.

393

00:23:25,970 --> 00:23:29,200

I don't have any
children to give to you.

394

00:23:29,200 --> 00:23:31,540

If you want to go,
you go by yourself.

395

00:23:31,540 --> 00:23:32,870

So he never went.

396

00:23:32,870 --> 00:23:36,390

He came with us to the ghetto.

397

00:23:36,390 --> 00:23:42,970

This was the only thing that
was a break in the family,

398

00:23:42,970 --> 00:23:48,960

but I know this, as a young
girl, 13 years old, when

399

00:23:48,960 --> 00:23:55,680

I'm 14, that my mother said to
my father, if he wants to go,

400

00:23:55,680 --> 00:23:56,730

he should go.

401

00:23:56,730 --> 00:24:01,140

She'll never go, and she

won't give any children.

402

00:24:01,140 --> 00:24:02,580

Why didn't she want to go?

403

00:24:02,580 --> 00:24:06,670

404

00:24:06,670 --> 00:24:11,290

She didn't believe the
end could be like it was.

405

00:24:11,290 --> 00:24:12,232

Nobody did.

406

00:24:12,232 --> 00:24:16,860

407

00:24:16,860 --> 00:24:21,930

Tell me, please, about the
formation of the ghetto.

408

00:24:21,930 --> 00:24:26,010

I could tell you the way
we went to the ghetto.

409

00:24:26,010 --> 00:24:29,010

You see on the
television sometimes

410

00:24:29,010 --> 00:24:32,640

people going in other
countries with the rucksacks,

411

00:24:32,640 --> 00:24:34,770

with the bags, with the things.

412

00:24:34,770 --> 00:24:36,330

We went to the ghetto.

413

00:24:36,330 --> 00:24:40,650

We occupied that

sister's apartment

414

00:24:40,650 --> 00:24:43,920
in the ghetto, what
she left from--

415

00:24:43,920 --> 00:24:46,650
when my father went,
she left to Demblin.

416

00:24:46,650 --> 00:24:48,630
She left to another town.

417

00:24:48,630 --> 00:24:50,430
She had a family there.

418

00:24:50,430 --> 00:24:54,030
And we went to her
house, so we were quite--

419

00:24:54,030 --> 00:24:56,340
had a nice apartment.

420

00:24:56,340 --> 00:25:00,390
And we left everything, and
whatever my mother could--

421

00:25:00,390 --> 00:25:03,330
and at one time only we went.

422

00:25:03,330 --> 00:25:04,350
That's it.

423

00:25:04,350 --> 00:25:08,640
We didn't come back and
forth to take this stuff.

424

00:25:08,640 --> 00:25:10,050
Several questions--
first, do you

425

00:25:10,050 --> 00:25:12,240

remember when you
went to the ghetto?

426
00:25:12,240 --> 00:25:14,940

427
00:25:14,940 --> 00:25:21,570
It was the end of '39 because
1940 they closed the ghetto,

428
00:25:21,570 --> 00:25:26,520
so it must have been the end of
'39 when we went to the ghetto.

429
00:25:26,520 --> 00:25:28,410
Do you remember being
notified that you

430
00:25:28,410 --> 00:25:30,720
had to move to this ghetto?

431
00:25:30,720 --> 00:25:37,260
We were notified from the
building as much as I remember,

432
00:25:37,260 --> 00:25:40,500
that all the Jews
have to empty out

433
00:25:40,500 --> 00:25:44,130
the building, and the Gentiles--

434
00:25:44,130 --> 00:25:47,380
they were left there.

435
00:25:47,380 --> 00:25:50,280
What was your family
able to take with them?

436
00:25:50,280 --> 00:25:53,880
And also, what were you
able to take with you?

437

00:25:53,880 --> 00:25:57,030

I had nothing, personal
stuff, but I could tell you

438

00:25:57,030 --> 00:25:59,670

what my mother took.

439

00:25:59,670 --> 00:26:01,620

She took gold.

440

00:26:01,620 --> 00:26:07,470

I remember her sitting
at night and sewing on--

441

00:26:07,470 --> 00:26:10,020

the [NON-ENGLISH]
they were called--

442

00:26:10,020 --> 00:26:13,260

the gold, in belts.

443

00:26:13,260 --> 00:26:16,560

She took it with
her to the ghetto.

444

00:26:16,560 --> 00:26:20,880

She took-- my father
was in textile,

445

00:26:20,880 --> 00:26:25,380

and my father used
to make shawls,

446

00:26:25,380 --> 00:26:28,020

those very heavy shawls.

447

00:26:28,020 --> 00:26:31,650

She took it with her in
case we need something,

448

00:26:31,650 --> 00:26:36,240

so we'd be able to buy

or to give it away.

449

00:26:36,240 --> 00:26:40,500

She took with her very little.

450

00:26:40,500 --> 00:26:47,370

Just the main thing by us was
the pillows, and the covers,

451

00:26:47,370 --> 00:26:53,530

and the downy, and a few
pictures, but that's about it.

452

00:26:53,530 --> 00:26:56,730

In fact, I have a
picture from my mother.

453

00:26:56,730 --> 00:26:59,990

That's what she took.

454

00:26:59,990 --> 00:27:02,810

You mentioned that the
ghetto was closed in 1940?

455

00:27:02,810 --> 00:27:04,070

Yeah.

456

00:27:04,070 --> 00:27:05,600

We weren't able to go out.

457

00:27:05,600 --> 00:27:10,400

Explain what you mean when
you say the ghetto was closed.

458

00:27:10,400 --> 00:27:14,930

All of a sudden, the German
soldiers or the Wehrmacht--

459

00:27:14,930 --> 00:27:16,055

I don't know who it was.

460

00:27:16,055 --> 00:27:20,120

They were around the
ghetto, and nobody

461
00:27:20,120 --> 00:27:25,640
was able to go out
from the ghetto

462
00:27:25,640 --> 00:27:29,720
or into the ghetto, nobody.

463
00:27:29,720 --> 00:27:38,720
In the ghetto, they
were building a bypass

464
00:27:38,720 --> 00:27:42,590
because under the
trolley cars were going

465
00:27:42,590 --> 00:27:46,040
and the cars, whatever it was
there, the horse and buggies.

466
00:27:46,040 --> 00:27:50,600
And we were going
through a bridge.

467
00:27:50,600 --> 00:27:53,180
I remember building that
bridge because we lived

468
00:27:53,180 --> 00:27:55,580
right close to that bridge.

469
00:27:55,580 --> 00:27:59,180
I'll tell you what had happened
if you're going to ask me

470
00:27:59,180 --> 00:28:01,070
what happened in the ghetto.

471
00:28:01,070 --> 00:28:02,690
That's what I remember.

472

00:28:02,690 --> 00:28:05,870

And I remember the
rationing of the food.

473

00:28:05,870 --> 00:28:10,190

Of course, we didn't let
my mother stay in the line.

474

00:28:10,190 --> 00:28:13,390

My sisters would.

475

00:28:13,390 --> 00:28:20,150

I became the strong one in
the family because I figured,

476

00:28:20,150 --> 00:28:22,220

what they're going
to do to a child?

477

00:28:22,220 --> 00:28:23,870

I mean, I wasn't
a child anymore.

478

00:28:23,870 --> 00:28:27,140

By that time I was 14 years old.

479

00:28:27,140 --> 00:28:29,165

And I stayed in
the line for food.

480

00:28:29,165 --> 00:28:32,770

481

00:28:32,770 --> 00:28:36,430

Was there a physical fence,
or a wall, or anything

482

00:28:36,430 --> 00:28:37,180

around the ghetto?

483

00:28:37,180 --> 00:28:41,650

484
00:28:41,650 --> 00:28:45,730
It wasn't a fence,
but wherever you went

485
00:28:45,730 --> 00:28:48,670
it was soldiers with guns.

486
00:28:48,670 --> 00:28:50,200
The ghetto was big.

487
00:28:50,200 --> 00:28:51,480
It wasn't as small.

488
00:28:51,480 --> 00:28:55,960
Lodz Ghetto was very big,
included the cemetery

489
00:28:55,960 --> 00:28:58,020
out there and the--

490
00:28:58,020 --> 00:29:00,760
it was quite big.

491
00:29:00,760 --> 00:29:06,160
And then when they were
building the bridge--

492
00:29:06,160 --> 00:29:08,710
so on one side it was
soldiers, on the other side

493
00:29:08,710 --> 00:29:10,720
were soldiers.

494
00:29:10,720 --> 00:29:13,120
Look, there was
smuggling in and out--

495
00:29:13,120 --> 00:29:17,680
I remember that-- but not to us.

496

00:29:17,680 --> 00:29:20,110

Were there people guarding
the ghetto from the inside

497

00:29:20,110 --> 00:29:21,620

as well as from the outside?

498

00:29:21,620 --> 00:29:26,080

No, only from the outside
until they formed--

499

00:29:26,080 --> 00:29:32,560

Rumkowski was the president, and
then he formed your own police.

500

00:29:32,560 --> 00:29:37,570

They formed your own money.

501

00:29:37,570 --> 00:29:41,800

We had the ghetto money
and the rationing,

502

00:29:41,800 --> 00:29:45,550

and they ghetto became a
little country for itself.

503

00:29:45,550 --> 00:29:46,740

I worked in the ghetto.

504

00:29:46,740 --> 00:29:49,880

505

00:29:49,880 --> 00:29:52,460

I want you to describe
for me the conditions

506

00:29:52,460 --> 00:29:54,530

in the ghetto at the
beginning, and then we'll

507

00:29:54,530 --> 00:29:57,560

go through some of the

changes over the years.

508

00:29:57,560 --> 00:30:01,610

When you first
arrived in the ghetto,

509

00:30:01,610 --> 00:30:05,570

describe for me the
conditions in which

510

00:30:05,570 --> 00:30:09,830

you and the other Jewish
families were living.

511

00:30:09,830 --> 00:30:13,130

Just fortunately that we took
cover my sister's apartment,

512

00:30:13,130 --> 00:30:16,340

so we were a little
lucky, but the conditions

513

00:30:16,340 --> 00:30:20,270

became unbearable
in the wintertime.

514

00:30:20,270 --> 00:30:22,910

We had no clothing.

515

00:30:22,910 --> 00:30:24,870

We had no food.

516

00:30:24,870 --> 00:30:26,390

We had to go--

517

00:30:26,390 --> 00:30:29,540

that's how they forced
us to go to work.

518

00:30:29,540 --> 00:30:33,800

We should get one
soup a day at least.

519

00:30:33,800 --> 00:30:38,150

But my older sister,
who was alive--

520

00:30:38,150 --> 00:30:40,620

she became very ill.

521

00:30:40,620 --> 00:30:42,890

Until today she has asthma.

522

00:30:42,890 --> 00:30:46,310

She had asthma, and she
couldn't go to work.

523

00:30:46,310 --> 00:30:54,740

So my mother ordered us to bring
[INAUDIBLE] soup for my sister.

524

00:30:54,740 --> 00:31:00,320

So when I went, I worked
also in a [GERMAN]..

525

00:31:00,320 --> 00:31:01,480

Translate.

526

00:31:01,480 --> 00:31:08,990

A [GERMAN] means a shop
where we were sewing.

527

00:31:08,990 --> 00:31:14,090

We were sewing uniform for
the German army, uniforms

528

00:31:14,090 --> 00:31:17,860

for the German army,
so we got a soup a day.

529

00:31:17,860 --> 00:31:20,735

Because I remember we
had to bring something

530

00:31:20,735 --> 00:31:22,310

for that sick sister.

531

00:31:22,310 --> 00:31:23,620

She couldn't go to work.

532

00:31:23,620 --> 00:31:26,820

533

00:31:26,820 --> 00:31:30,590

What about the other conditions
in the ghetto at the beginning,

534

00:31:30,590 --> 00:31:33,950

things like sanitation and
health care, everything?

535

00:31:33,950 --> 00:31:38,600

Well, one thing let me tell you,
which I remember very vividly.

536

00:31:38,600 --> 00:31:40,500

There was a [NON-ENGLISH]
in the ghetto--

537

00:31:40,500 --> 00:31:44,490

I don't know if you heard
that word, [NON-ENGLISH]----

538

00:31:44,490 --> 00:31:47,840

that ordered the children--

539

00:31:47,840 --> 00:31:52,100

that ordered everybody to go
out from their apartments.

540

00:31:52,100 --> 00:31:54,500

When was this?

541

00:31:54,500 --> 00:31:58,850

I would say 1942.

542

00:31:58,850 --> 00:32:01,520

I'm going to interrupt you and
have you stay first in the very

543
00:32:01,520 --> 00:32:03,560
beginning, and we'll work our
way through the [NON-ENGLISH]..

544
00:32:03,560 --> 00:32:04,060
Oh.

545
00:32:04,060 --> 00:32:09,290
In the very beginning,
we stayed for that food.

546
00:32:09,290 --> 00:32:14,810
The conditions became unbearable
because it was nothing to get.

547
00:32:14,810 --> 00:32:16,850
It was cold.

548
00:32:16,850 --> 00:32:20,960
The winters were very
harsh winters in Lodz,

549
00:32:20,960 --> 00:32:25,520
and we had a very smart mother.

550
00:32:25,520 --> 00:32:28,440
She never allow
us to stay in bed.

551
00:32:28,440 --> 00:32:31,430
We wanted to stay in bed,
that we should be warm.

552
00:32:31,430 --> 00:32:33,710
She says, no, you must go out.

553
00:32:33,710 --> 00:32:35,840
You must work.

554

00:32:35,840 --> 00:32:38,930
You must wash yourself.

555
00:32:38,930 --> 00:32:42,530
Take the snow,
and wash yourself.

556
00:32:42,530 --> 00:32:45,950
We had nothing, really to
eat, that little things what

557
00:32:45,950 --> 00:32:47,770
we became.

558
00:32:47,770 --> 00:32:55,100
My mother smuggled in a
little bit flour and sugar.

559
00:32:55,100 --> 00:32:57,820
This I remember.

560
00:32:57,820 --> 00:33:00,670
I was stealing potatoes.

561
00:33:00,670 --> 00:33:02,950
From whom?

562
00:33:02,950 --> 00:33:05,710
Across the street
from where I lived.

563
00:33:05,710 --> 00:33:07,120
I don't know if
I should give you

564
00:33:07,120 --> 00:33:08,990
the address for where I lived.

565
00:33:08,990 --> 00:33:16,200
[PLACE NAME] 14 was at
one time a fire station,

566

00:33:16,200 --> 00:33:19,570
right across the street.

567
00:33:19,570 --> 00:33:23,110
That fire station
was turned over,

568
00:33:23,110 --> 00:33:31,000
and they bought the food,
potatoes, [INAUDIBLE],, carrots,

569
00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:32,350
whatever they bought.

570
00:33:32,350 --> 00:33:37,540
They were loaded up over there.

571
00:33:37,540 --> 00:33:40,270
And I was stealing.

572
00:33:40,270 --> 00:33:43,600
I went out, and my mother
didn't say anything.

573
00:33:43,600 --> 00:33:48,430
I bought the potato,
whatever we could.

574
00:33:48,430 --> 00:33:49,816
That's when I would steal.

575
00:33:49,816 --> 00:33:54,190

576
00:33:54,190 --> 00:33:56,570
And this could be
such a long process.

577
00:33:56,570 --> 00:34:00,760

578
00:34:00,760 --> 00:34:01,840

It was bad.

579

00:34:01,840 --> 00:34:04,780

580

00:34:04,780 --> 00:34:06,650

And I remember one thing also.

581

00:34:06,650 --> 00:34:08,170

I'll never forget.

582

00:34:08,170 --> 00:34:11,260

I said this to my children.

583

00:34:11,260 --> 00:34:15,250

Across the street, where
that fire station was,

584

00:34:15,250 --> 00:34:22,409

when Rumkowski already became
the president from the ghetto,

585

00:34:22,409 --> 00:34:24,639

the elders from the ghetto--

586

00:34:24,639 --> 00:34:28,159

we didn't call them president.

587

00:34:28,159 --> 00:34:31,760

And he called the whole
ghetto over there, especially

588

00:34:31,760 --> 00:34:36,409

the parents, and he
asked the parents

589

00:34:36,409 --> 00:34:39,290

to give up the children.

590

00:34:39,290 --> 00:34:41,540

I was in front of the--

591

00:34:41,540 --> 00:34:44,820

I see him now.

592

00:34:44,820 --> 00:34:48,139

And you know what he
did before the war?

593

00:34:48,139 --> 00:34:54,370

He organized in
Lodz a home for--

594

00:34:54,370 --> 00:34:56,555

a charity-- I don't
know how you say

595

00:34:56,555 --> 00:34:58,850

it-- a home for the
children who have

596

00:34:58,850 --> 00:35:02,390

no parents out of the Lodz.

597

00:35:02,390 --> 00:35:05,910

He was a philanthropist.

598

00:35:05,910 --> 00:35:10,560

How he could stay
up there and say--

599

00:35:10,560 --> 00:35:13,800

first of all, he says, I'm
giving up all my children.

600

00:35:13,800 --> 00:35:16,380

601

00:35:16,380 --> 00:35:19,710

They're going to
go to a good place.

602

00:35:19,710 --> 00:35:25,140

You just put on their

names, what is their names,

603
00:35:25,140 --> 00:35:28,980
and their ages, and when
the times will come,

604
00:35:28,980 --> 00:35:32,190
you bring down all the children.

605
00:35:32,190 --> 00:35:34,110
I disagreed with him.

606
00:35:34,110 --> 00:35:35,820
I cried.

607
00:35:35,820 --> 00:35:41,410
I said, mom, how could any
parents give up the children?

608
00:35:41,410 --> 00:35:44,760
How could he give
up the children?

609
00:35:44,760 --> 00:35:50,190
Then I said [INAUDIBLE].

610
00:35:50,190 --> 00:35:54,090
I started to believe it.

611
00:35:54,090 --> 00:35:56,190
My mother didn't [INAUDIBLE].

612
00:35:56,190 --> 00:36:00,260

613
00:36:00,260 --> 00:36:01,880
She had to eat horse meat.

614
00:36:01,880 --> 00:36:04,010
She didn't want
to eat horse meat,

615

00:36:04,010 --> 00:36:05,885

but that's all we
got in the ghetto was

616

00:36:05,885 --> 00:36:08,115

a piece of horse meat.

617

00:36:08,115 --> 00:36:08,615

[?

618

00:36:08,615 --> 00:36:12,350

Then a doctor told her ?] God
will forgive you if you eat

619

00:36:12,350 --> 00:36:12,890

horse meat.

620

00:36:12,890 --> 00:36:17,781

When I saw that my mother
did this, that was the end.

621

00:36:17,781 --> 00:36:21,630

622

00:36:21,630 --> 00:36:26,540

I couldn't believe
I was seeing this.

623

00:36:26,540 --> 00:36:30,410

And that was the end, and I
saw Rumkowski staying up there

624

00:36:30,410 --> 00:36:33,020

and tell the parents
to give up the children

625

00:36:33,020 --> 00:36:34,940

with the names and the ages.

626

00:36:34,940 --> 00:36:38,240

627

00:36:38,240 --> 00:36:40,700

Do you remember when it
was when Rumkowski made

628

00:36:40,700 --> 00:36:42,320

that request of the parents?

629

00:36:42,320 --> 00:36:44,270

It was sometimes in '42.

630

00:36:44,270 --> 00:36:46,310

I don't remember dates now.

631

00:36:46,310 --> 00:36:48,100

It was 60 years ago.

632

00:36:48,100 --> 00:36:52,030

633

00:36:52,030 --> 00:36:53,440

How old were you
at the time when

634

00:36:53,440 --> 00:36:54,960

Rumkowski made that request?

635

00:36:54,960 --> 00:36:58,710

I must have been 15
years old already.

636

00:36:58,710 --> 00:37:01,020

And children of
what age was he--

637

00:37:01,020 --> 00:37:04,470

Smaller children,
small children.

638

00:37:04,470 --> 00:37:08,880

I remember when I see the
parents bringing the children,

639

00:37:08,880 --> 00:37:14,160

like to a sheep, such
a nice little boy.

640

00:37:14,160 --> 00:37:21,460

I see-- they gave
away the children.

641

00:37:21,460 --> 00:37:23,260

We didn't know where
they went, but now we

642

00:37:23,260 --> 00:37:26,110

know where they went.

643

00:37:26,110 --> 00:37:28,090

Let's pause, and you
can collect yourself,

644

00:37:28,090 --> 00:37:29,620

and I will change the tape also.

645

00:37:29,620 --> 00:37:38,290

646

00:37:38,290 --> 00:37:42,070

This is a continuation of an
interview for the United States

647

00:37:42,070 --> 00:37:43,990

Holocaust Memorial
Museum volunteer

648

00:37:43,990 --> 00:37:47,680

collection with Guta Jacobson.

649

00:37:47,680 --> 00:37:53,020

This is tape one, side B.
And you were telling me

650

00:37:53,020 --> 00:37:56,890

about when the

children were taken,

651

00:37:56,890 --> 00:38:00,280
when Rumkowski made the
request to take the children.

652

00:38:00,280 --> 00:38:03,910
I'm going to ask you to
take a step back and go back

653

00:38:03,910 --> 00:38:05,110
a little bit in time--

654

00:38:05,110 --> 00:38:06,010
Before?

655

00:38:06,010 --> 00:38:09,010
--before that and
explain to me how

656

00:38:09,010 --> 00:38:10,810
things started to
change in the ghetto

657

00:38:10,810 --> 00:38:15,550
when Rumkowski became
the man in charge,

658

00:38:15,550 --> 00:38:21,640
if you could go through some of
the changes from '40 into '41.

659

00:38:21,640 --> 00:38:25,960
We haven't touched on 1941 yet.

660

00:38:25,960 --> 00:38:32,870
One thing I remember, that
the Germans called in my older

661

00:38:32,870 --> 00:38:44,520
sister to their office,
and they ask her

662

00:38:44,520 --> 00:38:51,750

if she has a lot of gold,
if she has a lot of jewelry,

663

00:38:51,750 --> 00:38:53,580

and she should bring everything.

664

00:38:53,580 --> 00:38:56,230

665

00:38:56,230 --> 00:38:58,645

I have mentioned that
her name wasn't Rogowitz.

666

00:38:58,645 --> 00:39:02,040

It was [INAUDIBLE].

667

00:39:02,040 --> 00:39:06,330

They probably knew that she
had a family [INAUDIBLE]

668

00:39:06,330 --> 00:39:10,830

in Demblin, where she
went during the war.

669

00:39:10,830 --> 00:39:14,310

They were quite wealthy
people over there.

670

00:39:14,310 --> 00:39:19,708

She wasn't wealthy here, but my
God, that was her second part.

671

00:39:19,708 --> 00:39:24,590

672

00:39:24,590 --> 00:39:29,120

And my mother and we were
staying by the window,

673

00:39:29,120 --> 00:39:32,300

and that was the

end of everything.

674

00:39:32,300 --> 00:39:35,090

But she appeared.

675

00:39:35,090 --> 00:39:36,920

They just hit her.

676

00:39:36,920 --> 00:39:43,580

She had nothing to give to
them, and they let her go.

677

00:39:43,580 --> 00:39:46,310

The only second thing I
remember-- when they took away

678

00:39:46,310 --> 00:39:48,470

my mother from the group.

679

00:39:48,470 --> 00:39:52,250

But this is a big thing
that I had to tell you.

680

00:39:52,250 --> 00:39:53,300

When was this?

681

00:39:53,300 --> 00:39:55,470

When there was a
[NON-ENGLISH] in the ghetto.

682

00:39:55,470 --> 00:39:57,590

That's 1942?

683

00:39:57,590 --> 00:39:59,690

That was '42.

684

00:39:59,690 --> 00:40:04,340

Yeah, that was the
second part of '42.

685

00:40:04,340 --> 00:40:06,040

This I remember.

686
00:40:06,040 --> 00:40:07,910
And then they said
that everybody

687
00:40:07,910 --> 00:40:12,740
should leave the home, and we
all went in front of the house

688
00:40:12,740 --> 00:40:15,390
and then took out
all the elderly.

689
00:40:15,390 --> 00:40:18,390
She wasn't-- how old was she?

690
00:40:18,390 --> 00:40:21,490
By then she was-- of course,
she didn't have her hair

691
00:40:21,490 --> 00:40:24,530
and make-up like now.

692
00:40:24,530 --> 00:40:28,700
She was thin already after the
two years being in the ghetto.

693
00:40:28,700 --> 00:40:34,470
She tried to give everything
to my father, to us.

694
00:40:34,470 --> 00:40:37,020
And my father, by that
time, was away already.

695
00:40:37,020 --> 00:40:38,500
They took him away.

696
00:40:38,500 --> 00:40:39,000
When?

697
00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:43,270

Oh, yes, there's another
thing I have to tell you.

698
00:40:43,270 --> 00:40:49,490
That was Passover,
1941, when they

699
00:40:49,490 --> 00:40:59,090
said all the strong men should
register themselves, and come

700
00:40:59,090 --> 00:41:03,980
[PLACE NAME] there was a
place in Lodz, [PLACE NAME]

701
00:41:03,980 --> 00:41:05,480
and the register to work.

702
00:41:05,480 --> 00:41:07,820
We're going to give them work.

703
00:41:07,820 --> 00:41:11,970
And my father-- it was Passover.

704
00:41:11,970 --> 00:41:13,970
He had nothing to eat.

705
00:41:13,970 --> 00:41:16,700
He was a very husky,
very good-looking man.

706
00:41:16,700 --> 00:41:18,920
[INAUDIBLE]

707
00:41:18,920 --> 00:41:24,770
He was not such a
[INAUDIBLE] tall, beautiful.

708
00:41:24,770 --> 00:41:28,310
And he went off to [INAUDIBLE]
and they that took him away.

709

00:41:28,310 --> 00:41:31,730
I'll never, never forget this.

710
00:41:31,730 --> 00:41:36,410
My mother had a few potatoes
with water, so she boiled this.

711
00:41:36,410 --> 00:41:40,640
And I went over there, and they
allow me to give it to him.

712
00:41:40,640 --> 00:41:42,860
And they did took him to work.

713
00:41:42,860 --> 00:41:44,690
They didn't took
him to Auschwitz.

714
00:41:44,690 --> 00:41:47,450
I don't think Auschwitz
was by that time Auschwitz.

715
00:41:47,450 --> 00:41:50,030
I don't know what
they do at Auschwitz.

716
00:41:50,030 --> 00:41:51,740
And they took him away.

717
00:41:51,740 --> 00:41:53,270
This I'll never forget.

718
00:41:53,270 --> 00:41:59,090
But shortly after that, maybe
six months, maybe a year after,

719
00:41:59,090 --> 00:42:05,410
they took away my mother,
but we saved my mother.

720
00:42:05,410 --> 00:42:06,940
How?

721
00:42:06,940 --> 00:42:08,630
How did we saved my mother?

722
00:42:08,630 --> 00:42:13,990
It's unbelievable
even to say it.

723
00:42:13,990 --> 00:42:16,450
I mentioned that?

724
00:42:16,450 --> 00:42:18,686
No.

725
00:42:18,686 --> 00:42:23,840
There was one hospital
in the Lodz Ghetto.

726
00:42:23,840 --> 00:42:26,630
I had two things
with that hospital.

727
00:42:26,630 --> 00:42:28,850
I'm sure [INAUDIBLE].

728
00:42:28,850 --> 00:42:32,780
There was one hospital
in the Lodz Ghetto

729
00:42:32,780 --> 00:42:36,500
where we had a nurse
in that hospital,

730
00:42:36,500 --> 00:42:39,740
and we knew that nurse.

731
00:42:39,740 --> 00:42:44,570
And the screaming, the crying
was when we came upstairs

732
00:42:44,570 --> 00:42:46,460
without my mother.

733

00:42:46,460 --> 00:42:53,810

They took them away in
open wagons, the horse

734

00:42:53,810 --> 00:42:59,730

and buggies [INAUDIBLE] like
the cows that [INAUDIBLE]..

735

00:42:59,730 --> 00:43:05,490

And they runned out not
far from the hospital.

736

00:43:05,490 --> 00:43:07,410

We said to the nurse--

737

00:43:07,410 --> 00:43:13,050

I ran to the nurse because by
us she was like a big doctor

738

00:43:13,050 --> 00:43:15,690

because she was a nurse.

739

00:43:15,690 --> 00:43:18,390

And she says, go
to look for Mother.

740

00:43:18,390 --> 00:43:21,240

She knew my mother.

741

00:43:21,240 --> 00:43:25,380

She took her off that
things, and she hid her.

742

00:43:25,380 --> 00:43:28,680

And next day she
brought her over here.

743

00:43:28,680 --> 00:43:31,050

Would you believe
it, that night,

744

00:43:31,050 --> 00:43:35,070

that scream what went
on in that ghetto?

745
00:43:35,070 --> 00:43:39,460
Because I told you
my mother was away.

746
00:43:39,460 --> 00:43:42,222
Everybody's mother
was taken away,

747
00:43:42,222 --> 00:43:45,480
and we had the mother until
we took her to Auschwitz.

748
00:43:45,480 --> 00:43:48,690
My mother was in
Auschwitz, and I

749
00:43:48,690 --> 00:43:51,643
know when my mother
was going to Auschwitz.

750
00:43:51,643 --> 00:43:54,750

751
00:43:54,750 --> 00:43:56,320
I have [INAUDIBLE]
with my mother.

752
00:43:56,320 --> 00:44:00,040

753
00:44:00,040 --> 00:44:04,240
We took her 1944 to Auschwitz.

754
00:44:04,240 --> 00:44:14,170
Over there she was with us maybe
two weeks in the barracks until

755
00:44:14,170 --> 00:44:20,280
Dr. Mengele make the
rounds every morning,

756
00:44:20,280 --> 00:44:22,630
the [NON-ENGLISH].

757
00:44:22,630 --> 00:44:25,231
And he took out my mother.

758
00:44:25,231 --> 00:44:28,465
And that's all we could see.

759
00:44:28,465 --> 00:44:30,340
I'll get back to Auschwitz
in a little while.

760
00:44:30,340 --> 00:44:33,760
I wanted to stay in the
ghetto for more questions.

761
00:44:33,760 --> 00:44:36,650
But we saved my
mother in the ghetto.

762
00:44:36,650 --> 00:44:38,930
We saved her, and
we took her out.

763
00:44:38,930 --> 00:44:44,020
And there's one
more thing I want

764
00:44:44,020 --> 00:44:46,900
to tell you about the ghetto.

765
00:44:46,900 --> 00:44:52,240
There was a time,
1943, when typhus was

766
00:44:52,240 --> 00:44:57,050
raging in the ghetto, typhoid.

767
00:44:57,050 --> 00:45:00,380
And my sister, Bella,

my middle sister--

768

00:45:00,380 --> 00:45:04,710

she got a very high fever,
and she had typhoid.

769

00:45:04,710 --> 00:45:07,880

And then we had to take
her away from the house

770

00:45:07,880 --> 00:45:12,590

because this is a very
contagious sickness.

771

00:45:12,590 --> 00:45:16,290

They took her to that hospital.

772

00:45:16,290 --> 00:45:19,650

We had that nurse
in that hospital.

773

00:45:19,650 --> 00:45:23,610

When it became a little
dark, this girl--

774

00:45:23,610 --> 00:45:28,680

I was maybe 15 years,
maybe 15 and a half.

775

00:45:28,680 --> 00:45:35,580

I went through that bridge,
walked to the hospital,

776

00:45:35,580 --> 00:45:39,060

took her out from the
hospital with typhoid,

777

00:45:39,060 --> 00:45:42,210

with a very high,
burning fever--

778

00:45:42,210 --> 00:45:50,610

that was the things they said

in the height of typhoid.

779

00:45:50,610 --> 00:45:54,660

Somebody lived in the
other side of the bridge.

780

00:45:54,660 --> 00:46:00,630

I hid her in that house,
but they all were afraid

781

00:46:00,630 --> 00:46:02,430

because it was typhoid.

782

00:46:02,430 --> 00:46:04,080

But I hid her.

783

00:46:04,080 --> 00:46:07,010

I went home because my mother
thought that they killed me,

784

00:46:07,010 --> 00:46:11,310

so I couldn't leave my mother
already in that situation.

785

00:46:11,310 --> 00:46:17,190

I went home through that bridge
with the soldiers downstairs

786

00:46:17,190 --> 00:46:23,970

dressed in white, in a
uniform, and the nurse--

787

00:46:23,970 --> 00:46:27,280

they didn't do nothing to me.

788

00:46:27,280 --> 00:46:29,420

And I told my mother
that I hid her here,

789

00:46:29,420 --> 00:46:34,500

and the next day I went, and
I brought my sister back.

790

00:46:34,500 --> 00:46:36,450

And she recovered
from the typhus.

791

00:46:36,450 --> 00:46:37,350

She's still alive.

792

00:46:37,350 --> 00:46:39,480

[INAUDIBLE]

793

00:46:39,480 --> 00:46:40,230

She's still alive.

794

00:46:40,230 --> 00:46:42,820

795

00:46:42,820 --> 00:46:45,610

This I remember from the ghetto.

796

00:46:45,610 --> 00:46:47,140

Was that the story
about the bridge

797

00:46:47,140 --> 00:46:48,475

that you wanted to tell me?

798

00:46:48,475 --> 00:46:49,900

Yes.

799

00:46:49,900 --> 00:46:52,820

Who ever thought
that you could pass

800

00:46:52,820 --> 00:46:54,770

that bridge in the evening?

801

00:46:54,770 --> 00:46:57,390

But I had to go when it's
dark because in the daytime

802

00:46:57,390 --> 00:47:02,170

it was even worse, and I
went in that white uniform.

803
00:47:02,170 --> 00:47:03,910
How'd you get the white uniform?

804
00:47:03,910 --> 00:47:05,770
From that nurse.

805
00:47:05,770 --> 00:47:10,113
I remember her [INAUDIBLE].

806
00:47:10,113 --> 00:47:10,780
I wasn't afraid.

807
00:47:10,780 --> 00:47:13,510

808
00:47:13,510 --> 00:47:15,580
I wasn't afraid in
Auschwitz either.

809
00:47:15,580 --> 00:47:21,760

810
00:47:21,760 --> 00:47:25,840
During your time
in the ghetto, what

811
00:47:25,840 --> 00:47:30,530
did you know about what was
happening outside the ghetto?

812
00:47:30,530 --> 00:47:31,030
Nothing.

813
00:47:31,030 --> 00:47:33,600

814
00:47:33,600 --> 00:47:36,570
I had no knowledge that
there is underground.

815
00:47:36,570 --> 00:47:40,190
I had no knowledge
of these things.

816
00:47:40,190 --> 00:47:42,590
I had no knowledge
that people were

817
00:47:42,590 --> 00:47:45,620
listening to radios and things.

818
00:47:45,620 --> 00:47:48,965
Later in the ghetto
I heard about it--

819
00:47:48,965 --> 00:47:54,950
later, in Auschwitz, but in
the ghetto I had no knowledge.

820
00:47:54,950 --> 00:47:58,220
When Jews came
from smaller towns

821
00:47:58,220 --> 00:48:02,450
and were put in
the ghetto, tell me

822
00:48:02,450 --> 00:48:05,450
what changes happened
in the ghetto because

823
00:48:05,450 --> 00:48:08,840
of this influx of people
and also what news

824
00:48:08,840 --> 00:48:11,330
came with these
people when they came.

825
00:48:11,330 --> 00:48:16,820
Well, everybody had told
they came from GÅ,owno.

826
00:48:16,820 --> 00:48:21,500
From around Lodz they
came into the ghetto.

827
00:48:21,500 --> 00:48:26,960
Everybody told how their
parents were taken away, how

828
00:48:26,960 --> 00:48:30,190
the property was taken away.

829
00:48:30,190 --> 00:48:35,360
It was even worse
because the hunger became

830
00:48:35,360 --> 00:48:39,740
more and more unbearable.

831
00:48:39,740 --> 00:48:44,630
We had to go to the shops
because of the hunger.

832
00:48:44,630 --> 00:48:49,096
It was a little, maybe, warm
in the shops than in the house.

833
00:48:49,096 --> 00:48:53,480
It was a terrible
life, terrible life.

834
00:48:53,480 --> 00:48:56,210
Anybody could imagine
what a ghetto is.

835
00:48:56,210 --> 00:49:00,310

836
00:49:00,310 --> 00:49:04,810
I want you to imagine and use
the words to explain to me

837

00:49:04,810 --> 00:49:07,210
what I would see
if I were to walk

838
00:49:07,210 --> 00:49:12,460
on the streets of the
ghetto in 1941 or '42.

839
00:49:12,460 --> 00:49:21,210
You would see people walking
in daze, daze, hungry.

840
00:49:21,210 --> 00:49:24,270
If you would come
in the wintertime,

841
00:49:24,270 --> 00:49:26,760
their feet were swollen.

842
00:49:26,760 --> 00:49:32,730
I saw these people sitting
in front of their homes.

843
00:49:32,730 --> 00:49:35,325
If anybody would
walk in, like you,

844
00:49:35,325 --> 00:49:38,910
and didn't know that you are
in a ghetto, you would say,

845
00:49:38,910 --> 00:49:40,755
these are crazy people.

846
00:49:40,755 --> 00:49:45,025
They belong to crazy homes.

847
00:49:45,025 --> 00:49:47,130
They were not crazy.

848
00:49:47,130 --> 00:49:50,250
These people had no future.

849

00:49:50,250 --> 00:49:52,110

These people were
waiting to die.

850

00:49:52,110 --> 00:49:55,350

They were praying to die.

851

00:49:55,350 --> 00:49:58,710

I saw them in the ghetto.

852

00:49:58,710 --> 00:50:04,150

They was taking them out to
the cemetery from the streets.

853

00:50:04,150 --> 00:50:06,794

854

00:50:06,794 --> 00:50:08,191

They were dying.

855

00:50:08,191 --> 00:50:11,080

856

00:50:11,080 --> 00:50:13,490

I said, I'm not going to die.

857

00:50:13,490 --> 00:50:16,260

I have to see the
destruction of Hitler,

858

00:50:16,260 --> 00:50:18,950

and then let them take me away.

859

00:50:18,950 --> 00:50:22,440

And that's how I survived.

860

00:50:22,440 --> 00:50:25,350

I did another thing.

861

00:50:25,350 --> 00:50:27,030

Every day when I--

862
00:50:27,030 --> 00:50:30,990
it was already
springtime or summertime.

863
00:50:30,990 --> 00:50:37,120
When I left the shop, I went
to the cemetery and got--

864
00:50:37,120 --> 00:50:39,390
[NON-ENGLISH], they called this.

865
00:50:39,390 --> 00:50:42,180
They would call
this here spinach,

866
00:50:42,180 --> 00:50:45,510
but it was not
spinach like here.

867
00:50:45,510 --> 00:50:48,960
It was that green thing
that was grown there.

868
00:50:48,960 --> 00:50:51,300
It was not poison.

869
00:50:51,300 --> 00:50:55,450
My mother used to
have a [INAUDIBLE],,

870
00:50:55,450 --> 00:50:57,600
and she cooked this.

871
00:50:57,600 --> 00:51:00,420
And she gave that
to eat, not knowing

872
00:51:00,420 --> 00:51:05,940
that it had a lot, a
lot of vitamin in it.

873

00:51:05,940 --> 00:51:09,690
And we ate this, and nobody
went from my household,

874
00:51:09,690 --> 00:51:11,430
from my sisters and mother.

875
00:51:11,430 --> 00:51:18,150
I went every day from the
shop into the [NON-ENGLISH]

876
00:51:18,150 --> 00:51:20,260
and brought a little things.

877
00:51:20,260 --> 00:51:22,170
But there were time
in the wintertime when

878
00:51:22,170 --> 00:51:26,160
this didn't grow anymore,
so we didn't have it.

879
00:51:26,160 --> 00:51:29,150
But soon the spring came.

880
00:51:29,150 --> 00:51:31,110
This grows in spring.

881
00:51:31,110 --> 00:51:34,560
I showed my children
what this is.

882
00:51:34,560 --> 00:51:41,310
My daughter used
to live in Wheaton,

883
00:51:41,310 --> 00:51:44,190
and I took her to the woods.

884
00:51:44,190 --> 00:51:46,260
And I showed her what this is.

885

00:51:46,260 --> 00:51:50,400
And even I showed her how you
could survive in that woods

886
00:51:50,400 --> 00:51:55,740
because I wasn't [INAUDIBLE]
how you survive in the woods.

887
00:51:55,740 --> 00:51:59,460
We'll get to that
a little bit later.

888
00:51:59,460 --> 00:52:03,130
Were there Germans in the
ghetto trying to maintain order

889
00:52:03,130 --> 00:52:04,380
or actually maintaining order?

890
00:52:04,380 --> 00:52:07,230
No, Jews maintained the order.

891
00:52:07,230 --> 00:52:09,540
Did Germans ever come in?

892
00:52:09,540 --> 00:52:13,980
I saw them from far away,
walking around, watching us,

893
00:52:13,980 --> 00:52:16,560
but they were afraid to
come into the ghetto.

894
00:52:16,560 --> 00:52:17,640
It was typhus.

895
00:52:17,640 --> 00:52:18,690
It was germs.

896
00:52:18,690 --> 00:52:21,060
It was death in the ghetto.

897

00:52:21,060 --> 00:52:26,385
I never really saw them except
when I passed the bridge

898
00:52:26,385 --> 00:52:28,920
or when I saw them
walking on the [INAUDIBLE]

899
00:52:28,920 --> 00:52:36,490
close to a big street
that [INAUDIBLE]..

900
00:52:36,490 --> 00:52:38,340
You mentioned before
[NON-ENGLISH],,

901
00:52:38,340 --> 00:52:41,860
and I asked you to wait until
it was the appropriate time.

902
00:52:41,860 --> 00:52:43,990
Can you explain what
[NON-ENGLISH] means,

903
00:52:43,990 --> 00:52:47,230
what the word means, and
also explain the context?

904
00:52:47,230 --> 00:52:53,200
[NON-ENGLISH] means
that-- in that day,

905
00:52:53,200 --> 00:52:58,690
nobody was allowed to be
in this street, nobody.

906
00:52:58,690 --> 00:53:02,230
There was instant
killing went the--

907
00:53:02,230 --> 00:53:03,880
that's when the
Germans came around.

908

00:53:03,880 --> 00:53:06,440

909

00:53:06,440 --> 00:53:09,770

Then was the time when they
told us to go downstairs

910

00:53:09,770 --> 00:53:13,560

from the houses, and they went
upstairs to look in the houses,

911

00:53:13,560 --> 00:53:15,600

if they would find somebody.

912

00:53:15,600 --> 00:53:16,650

We went down.

913

00:53:16,650 --> 00:53:21,830

That's when they took away
my mother, when [INAUDIBLE]..

914

00:53:21,830 --> 00:53:25,940

Say, 8:00 at night,
nobody was allowed

915

00:53:25,940 --> 00:53:29,690

to go out when they
took away the children.

916

00:53:29,690 --> 00:53:30,340

Nobody.

917

00:53:30,340 --> 00:53:33,735

That's a [NON-ENGLISH].

918

00:53:33,735 --> 00:53:35,947

That's what I thought
[NON-ENGLISH] were.

919

00:53:35,947 --> 00:53:38,570

920

00:53:38,570 --> 00:53:40,080

That's what I could tell you.

921

00:53:40,080 --> 00:53:42,660

922

00:53:42,660 --> 00:53:45,960

Tell me about the ghetto
after the children were taken.

923

00:53:45,960 --> 00:53:51,870

924

00:53:51,870 --> 00:53:55,410

The parents were walking
around in the street.

925

00:53:55,410 --> 00:53:59,780

One was happy because my child
will have something to eat.

926

00:53:59,780 --> 00:54:04,170

One said, they will
have to kill them all.

927

00:54:04,170 --> 00:54:09,660

But the main thing-- the
lies from my elders there,

928

00:54:09,660 --> 00:54:11,730

from Rumkowski.

929

00:54:11,730 --> 00:54:13,800

I couldn't take that.

930

00:54:13,800 --> 00:54:18,630

As stupid as I was and not
educated, I couldn't take that.

931

00:54:18,630 --> 00:54:23,520

I knew that these children
are not going to be alive.

932
00:54:23,520 --> 00:54:25,152
That was the [NON-ENGLISH].

933
00:54:25,152 --> 00:54:27,960
That was when they
took away the children,

934
00:54:27,960 --> 00:54:31,460
and they showed he was
the first one to give up.

935
00:54:31,460 --> 00:54:37,260
But we didn't go with
the children in Warsaw.

936
00:54:37,260 --> 00:54:39,310
He went with the children.

937
00:54:39,310 --> 00:54:43,168
He also was in his position,
and he went with the children.

938
00:54:43,168 --> 00:54:46,040

939
00:54:46,040 --> 00:54:47,810
What was his name?

940
00:54:47,810 --> 00:54:50,590
It was--

941
00:54:50,590 --> 00:54:52,930
Let's stay in Lodz.

942
00:54:52,930 --> 00:54:56,890
I don't remember [INAUDIBLE].

943
00:54:56,890 --> 00:55:00,250
Did the people,
including yourself,

944

00:55:00,250 --> 00:55:07,740

have any idea about the
camps, Chelmno and Auschwitz?

945

00:55:07,740 --> 00:55:11,400

No, no, no, no.

946

00:55:11,400 --> 00:55:14,220

When they had the idea--

947

00:55:14,220 --> 00:55:16,530

and it came to
me, the idea, so I

948

00:55:16,530 --> 00:55:18,450

figured, if it came
to me, the idea,

949

00:55:18,450 --> 00:55:20,850

everybody else must have it.

950

00:55:20,850 --> 00:55:24,750

When the wagons came
back from Auschwitz--

951

00:55:24,750 --> 00:55:28,140

not everybody went at one time--

952

00:55:28,140 --> 00:55:35,280

people left notes in
these wagons not to come,

953

00:55:35,280 --> 00:55:38,850

that this is destructive, that
they're burning the people,

954

00:55:38,850 --> 00:55:40,740

they're taking away the people.

955

00:55:40,740 --> 00:55:44,004

Some people didn't
want to believe.

956
00:55:44,004 --> 00:55:48,600
I believed, but I had
no choice because, look,

957
00:55:48,600 --> 00:55:54,390
my husband was in the ghetto
from the 500 from the people.

958
00:55:54,390 --> 00:55:56,530
He was my husband at that time.

959
00:55:56,530 --> 00:55:59,010
I met him after the war.

960
00:55:59,010 --> 00:56:00,570
He didn't go to Auschwitz.

961
00:56:00,570 --> 00:56:03,125

962
00:56:03,125 --> 00:56:04,500
You're jumping
ahead of me again.

963
00:56:04,500 --> 00:56:07,500
You're talking about the
people who were left behind

964
00:56:07,500 --> 00:56:10,415
in the ghetto for the cleanup.

965
00:56:10,415 --> 00:56:11,560
You're jumping ahead of me.

966
00:56:11,560 --> 00:56:15,380

967
00:56:15,380 --> 00:56:20,770
You had said that
Rumkowski was similar to--

968

00:56:20,770 --> 00:56:23,230

he was a philanthropist,
and he had run an orphanage,

969

00:56:23,230 --> 00:56:24,493

like Janusz Korczak.

970

00:56:24,493 --> 00:56:27,670

971

00:56:27,670 --> 00:56:29,500

When you said he
was going to give up

972

00:56:29,500 --> 00:56:31,690

his children-- you
said this twice,

973

00:56:31,690 --> 00:56:35,380

and I just would like you
to clarify, at this point,

974

00:56:35,380 --> 00:56:38,170

who was he referring to
when he said "his children"?

975

00:56:38,170 --> 00:56:43,900

Well, he was running before
the war [NON-ENGLISH]..

976

00:56:43,900 --> 00:56:44,560

An orphanage?

977

00:56:44,560 --> 00:56:48,370

An orphanage home, and
he was a philanthropist.

978

00:56:48,370 --> 00:56:51,440

Rich people gave money to that.

979

00:56:51,440 --> 00:56:55,480

That was only Jewish people.

980
00:56:55,480 --> 00:56:56,080
Did he--

981
00:56:56,080 --> 00:56:57,280
He gave this up.

982
00:56:57,280 --> 00:57:00,770
Did he give up anybody
from his family?

983
00:57:00,770 --> 00:57:03,920
He had no children.

984
00:57:03,920 --> 00:57:05,720
I don't know if he gave up his--

985
00:57:05,720 --> 00:57:09,250
he had a wife, but
he had no children.

986
00:57:09,250 --> 00:57:12,130
One of his children in
the [NON-ENGLISH] was

987
00:57:12,130 --> 00:57:15,730
my brother-in-law,
Leo Jakubowicz.

988
00:57:15,730 --> 00:57:18,580
He has that exhibit in--

989
00:57:18,580 --> 00:57:21,917
that was his child, but
he wasn't a child anymore.

990
00:57:21,917 --> 00:57:23,500
You have to explain
what you were just

991
00:57:23,500 --> 00:57:25,210
talking about with

respect to an exhibit.

992

00:57:25,210 --> 00:57:29,590

Look, my brother-in-law, Leo--

993

00:57:29,590 --> 00:57:31,960

you said you know him.

994

00:57:31,960 --> 00:57:36,070

He has the exhibit
here in Washington.

995

00:57:36,070 --> 00:57:40,448

You need to explain
that for the interview

996

00:57:40,448 --> 00:57:42,490

because people who are
listening don't understand

997

00:57:42,490 --> 00:57:43,532

what you're referring to.

998

00:57:43,532 --> 00:57:44,530

All right.

999

00:57:44,530 --> 00:57:51,660

He was one of Rumkowski's
children in Lodz

1000

00:57:51,660 --> 00:57:57,300

but years back because
his mother became

1001

00:57:57,300 --> 00:58:00,740

a widow with three children.

1002

00:58:00,740 --> 00:58:03,950

She couldn't support
the children,

1003

00:58:03,950 --> 00:58:07,280

so Leon went to Rumkowski's--

1004
00:58:07,280 --> 00:58:09,500
to his children.

1005
00:58:09,500 --> 00:58:16,400
And the younger brother
was left with the mother.

1006
00:58:16,400 --> 00:58:18,710
The little brother was
left with the mother,

1007
00:58:18,710 --> 00:58:25,590
and the younger brother,
which was my husband, Jakub--

1008
00:58:25,590 --> 00:58:27,870
he was left with that family.

1009
00:58:27,870 --> 00:58:29,550
But we're not
talking about this.

1010
00:58:29,550 --> 00:58:31,620
We're talking about Leo.

1011
00:58:31,620 --> 00:58:36,080
When Leo came to ghetto, he was
one of Rumkowski's children.

1012
00:58:36,080 --> 00:58:39,450
Rumkowski knew him very
well, but he was not

1013
00:58:39,450 --> 00:58:42,300
a child which was that baby.

1014
00:58:42,300 --> 00:58:46,770
He was already a grown-up
man by that time.

1015

00:58:46,770 --> 00:58:51,240
But he was with Rumkowski.

1016
00:58:51,240 --> 00:58:53,100
Now, you made reference
to the exhibit,

1017
00:58:53,100 --> 00:58:56,940
so you might as well explain
now what the exhibit is

1018
00:58:56,940 --> 00:58:59,730
that is now currently in the
Holocaust Museum in Washington,

1019
00:58:59,730 --> 00:59:00,570
DC.

1020
00:59:00,570 --> 00:59:05,790
Since this man was
very, very talented,

1021
00:59:05,790 --> 00:59:10,680
you know what he did in
the Lodz ghetto, this man?

1022
00:59:10,680 --> 00:59:13,350
He was not my
brother-in-law at that time.

1023
00:59:13,350 --> 00:59:16,020
I wasn't married.

1024
00:59:16,020 --> 00:59:26,040
He formed a kitchen, and the
people who work for the Germans

1025
00:59:26,040 --> 00:59:28,740
and who are [INAUDIBLE]--

1026
00:59:28,740 --> 00:59:32,010
they had eight days
in that kitchen,

1027
00:59:32,010 --> 00:59:35,910
and he was the head
from that kitchen.

1028
00:59:35,910 --> 00:59:41,670
He also developed,
with help from plumbers

1029
00:59:41,670 --> 00:59:47,080
I think, a dishwasher in that
kitchen, which was unheard of.

1030
00:59:47,080 --> 00:59:50,580
He was also the head
from the mennica.

1031
00:59:50,580 --> 00:59:54,840
You know what mennica is, where
they make money in Washington?

1032
00:59:54,840 --> 00:59:56,520
How you call that?

1033
00:59:56,520 --> 00:59:57,762
The Mint, the printing.

1034
00:59:57,762 --> 00:59:59,100
Yeah, the Mint print.

1035
00:59:59,100 --> 01:00:01,320
He was the head of the--

1036
01:00:01,320 --> 01:00:04,260
because he was
Rumkowski's child.

1037
01:00:04,260 --> 01:00:05,580
He knew Rumkowski.

1038
01:00:05,580 --> 01:00:09,210
What he did for Rumkowski--

1039
01:00:09,210 --> 01:00:12,030
he did the whole
sketch from the ghetto.

1040
01:00:12,030 --> 01:00:14,220
Look at it today.

1041
01:00:14,220 --> 01:00:16,510
Picture-- this is in miniature.

1042
01:00:16,510 --> 01:00:19,950

1043
01:00:19,950 --> 01:00:31,360
You could close it off, and it's
like a violin, a big violin.

1044
01:00:31,360 --> 01:00:37,560
It's around the Jewish
star we were wearing.

1045
01:00:37,560 --> 01:00:40,860
He went from one--

1046
01:00:40,860 --> 01:00:42,810
he has all the money.

1047
01:00:42,810 --> 01:00:49,620
He has all the original
signatures from the resort,

1048
01:00:49,620 --> 01:00:52,050
from the shops.

1049
01:00:52,050 --> 01:00:55,380
All over the ghetto is there.

1050
01:00:55,380 --> 01:01:00,360
You have the police.

1051

01:01:00,360 --> 01:01:02,460
You have the--

1052
01:01:02,460 --> 01:01:04,680
I could even show
you where I lived.

1053
01:01:04,680 --> 01:01:12,210
Every house is in
miniature, and the streets,

1054
01:01:12,210 --> 01:01:16,410
and the cemetery,
and everything what

1055
01:01:16,410 --> 01:01:22,200
was in the ghetto it
is there in miniature.

1056
01:01:22,200 --> 01:01:24,690
This was made for Rumkowski.

1057
01:01:24,690 --> 01:01:29,850
You got the bread, another
bread, Leo [NON-ENGLISH]..

1058
01:01:29,850 --> 01:01:34,030
He never gave it to Rumkowski
because he always said,

1059
01:01:34,030 --> 01:01:36,090
it's not finished.

1060
01:01:36,090 --> 01:01:39,150
So you could find
where the Germans were,

1061
01:01:39,150 --> 01:01:40,920
where I lived, where
you lived, where

1062
01:01:40,920 --> 01:01:43,290
everybody lived you could find.

1063
01:01:43,290 --> 01:01:45,930
That bridge you're going to see.

1064
01:01:45,930 --> 01:01:47,910
That's very important
to me because what

1065
01:01:47,910 --> 01:01:49,320
I went through with the bridge.

1066
01:01:49,320 --> 01:01:50,610
That's important.

1067
01:01:50,610 --> 01:01:52,170
You could find this.

1068
01:01:52,170 --> 01:01:54,490
So now you're going to ask me--

1069
01:01:54,490 --> 01:01:56,460
he went to Auschwitz.

1070
01:01:56,460 --> 01:02:01,120
Why he didn't took this
with him to Auschwitz,

1071
01:02:01,120 --> 01:02:02,940
you probably will ask me.

1072
01:02:02,940 --> 01:02:07,620
Everybody took everything, and
this is such a valuable thing.

1073
01:02:07,620 --> 01:02:11,100
That man probably knew he was--

1074
01:02:11,100 --> 01:02:14,550
I didn't know him, and I
knew my husband at that time.

1075

01:02:14,550 --> 01:02:17,700
He probably knew
that he was going.

1076
01:02:17,700 --> 01:02:26,280
He came one transport before
Rumkowski to Auschwitz.

1077
01:02:26,280 --> 01:02:29,100
He left it in his house--

1078
01:02:29,100 --> 01:02:32,700
listen-- with a big sign, open--

1079
01:02:32,700 --> 01:02:34,830
he didn't hide it--

1080
01:02:34,830 --> 01:02:39,240
whoever find this,
it's very valuable.

1081
01:02:39,240 --> 01:02:44,280
Give this to authorities,
to higher authorities.

1082
01:02:44,280 --> 01:02:48,510
Being that my husband was left
in the ghetto with the 500

1083
01:02:48,510 --> 01:02:52,590
people, he went to his
house, and he saved this.

1084
01:02:52,590 --> 01:02:55,760

1085
01:02:55,760 --> 01:02:59,690
When Leo came back-- it was
fortunate that he did come back

1086
01:02:59,690 --> 01:03:01,160
from Auschwitz--

1087

01:03:01,160 --> 01:03:03,650

he gave it back.

1088

01:03:03,650 --> 01:03:06,620

And we wanted this

to go to Yad Vashem.

1089

01:03:06,620 --> 01:03:10,100

My husband had a

big [INAUDIBLE],,

1090

01:03:10,100 --> 01:03:13,370

very big [INAUDIBLE],,

and finally he

1091

01:03:13,370 --> 01:03:16,400

gave it to this museum.

1092

01:03:16,400 --> 01:03:19,610

So this is currently part

of the permanent exhibition?

1093

01:03:19,610 --> 01:03:21,950

Yeah, those are, yeah.

1094

01:03:21,950 --> 01:03:24,350

But you could see

everything there,

1095

01:03:24,350 --> 01:03:28,550

every little money what we

had, every little house,

1096

01:03:28,550 --> 01:03:31,310

every little shop, everything.

1097

01:03:31,310 --> 01:03:34,130

Every street you

could see there.

1098

01:03:34,130 --> 01:03:35,800

That's very valuable.

1099
01:03:35,800 --> 01:03:38,574
Now, after that, he
became my brother-in-law.

1100
01:03:38,574 --> 01:03:43,420

1101
01:03:43,420 --> 01:03:45,970
I wanted to ask
you to reflect back

1102
01:03:45,970 --> 01:03:50,110
on when the deportations
to the camps began,

1103
01:03:50,110 --> 01:03:55,330
your first recollections of
people being deported out

1104
01:03:55,330 --> 01:03:57,520
to what you now
know was Auschwitz.

1105
01:03:57,520 --> 01:04:00,250

1106
01:04:00,250 --> 01:04:05,200
My mother-- then we had a
little idea that we going,

1107
01:04:05,200 --> 01:04:07,060
but they told us--

1108
01:04:07,060 --> 01:04:11,350
they even gave us bread
when we went on the--

1109
01:04:11,350 --> 01:04:13,870
I went very late.

1110
01:04:13,870 --> 01:04:15,400

We were hiding, too.

1111

01:04:15,400 --> 01:04:17,180

In the ghetto we were hiding.

1112

01:04:17,180 --> 01:04:21,940

My mother was hiding, but at the
end she couldn't hide anymore.

1113

01:04:21,940 --> 01:04:25,293

You need to explain how
you were hiding and where,

1114

01:04:25,293 --> 01:04:26,960

if you could describe
the circumstances.

1115

01:04:26,960 --> 01:04:28,390

In the home, in the homes.

1116

01:04:28,390 --> 01:04:30,610

We were hiding in our home.

1117

01:04:30,610 --> 01:04:33,580

In the attic we were hiding.

1118

01:04:33,580 --> 01:04:37,330

But everything
was empty already.

1119

01:04:37,330 --> 01:04:40,570

First they took
us with the shops.

1120

01:04:40,570 --> 01:04:50,825

Then that took us the leftovers
until we went to the trains.

1121

01:04:50,825 --> 01:04:53,480

1122

01:04:53,480 --> 01:04:55,790

What can I tell you?

1123

01:04:55,790 --> 01:04:56,710

That's how we went.

1124

01:04:56,710 --> 01:05:00,200

We went very late to the trains.

1125

01:05:00,200 --> 01:05:01,790

And then it was empty.

1126

01:05:01,790 --> 01:05:04,460

We didn't even believe
that-- after the war,

1127

01:05:04,460 --> 01:05:08,180

I found out that there
was 500 left there.

1128

01:05:08,180 --> 01:05:11,400

We didn't know that.

1129

01:05:11,400 --> 01:05:16,590

When were you sent out
of the Lodz Ghetto?

1130

01:05:16,590 --> 01:05:25,490

The end of '44, in October,
in August or October,

1131

01:05:25,490 --> 01:05:30,250

in '44, the end of '44, not
even the end [INAUDIBLE]..

1132

01:05:30,250 --> 01:05:32,128

I have to show you.

1133

01:05:32,128 --> 01:05:33,397

Come close.

1134

01:05:33,397 --> 01:05:35,230

OK, you want to pause

and show me something.

1135

01:05:35,230 --> 01:05:37,370

Yes.

1136

01:05:37,370 --> 01:05:42,920

OK, I think that we've
established that you went when?

1137

01:05:42,920 --> 01:05:43,935

In August '44.

1138

01:05:43,935 --> 01:05:47,723

1139

01:05:47,723 --> 01:05:49,640

How were you notified
that you would be going?

1140

01:05:49,640 --> 01:05:53,760

1141

01:05:53,760 --> 01:05:58,590

The Jewish people, the
police, and everybody

1142

01:05:58,590 --> 01:06:02,750

were looking all over if there's
nobody hurt and everything.

1143

01:06:02,750 --> 01:06:07,080

We had no more food, so we
decided that this time we're

1144

01:06:07,080 --> 01:06:08,210

going to go.

1145

01:06:08,210 --> 01:06:09,890

We took all our possessions.

1146

01:06:09,890 --> 01:06:12,620

My mother was sewing that gold.

1147
01:06:12,620 --> 01:06:15,030
I'll never forget this.

1148
01:06:15,030 --> 01:06:17,270
And we went.

1149
01:06:17,270 --> 01:06:19,507
Not knowingly.

1150
01:06:19,507 --> 01:06:21,090
So you said you took
your possessions.

1151
01:06:21,090 --> 01:06:23,090
What possessions did you
still own at this time?

1152
01:06:23,090 --> 01:06:25,490

1153
01:06:25,490 --> 01:06:32,270
We only owned the gold, and
clothes, and then watches,

1154
01:06:32,270 --> 01:06:35,240
and whatever we owned.

1155
01:06:35,240 --> 01:06:39,380
In fact, I was very mad that my
mother didn't give this away.

1156
01:06:39,380 --> 01:06:40,400
We should have food.

1157
01:06:40,400 --> 01:06:43,670
We would get very mad.

1158
01:06:43,670 --> 01:06:47,300
But that's what it was.

1159

01:06:47,300 --> 01:06:49,440

Did you ask her why
she didn't sell these--

1160

01:06:49,440 --> 01:06:51,300

No, no, no.

1161

01:06:51,300 --> 01:06:52,520

No, she was my mother.

1162

01:06:52,520 --> 01:06:55,495

1163

01:06:55,495 --> 01:06:57,120

During your time in
the ghetto, did you

1164

01:06:57,120 --> 01:07:01,680

have any idea about what was
happening in the Warsaw Ghetto?

1165

01:07:01,680 --> 01:07:03,100

No.

1166

01:07:03,100 --> 01:07:05,310

We had family into
Warsaw Ghetto.

1167

01:07:05,310 --> 01:07:07,890

My mother had a sister
in the Warsaw Ghetto,

1168

01:07:07,890 --> 01:07:10,980

and I had cousins in
the Warsaw ghetto.

1169

01:07:10,980 --> 01:07:13,620

We didn't know nothing.

1170

01:07:13,620 --> 01:07:15,270

Did you have any idea
what was going on

1171

01:07:15,270 --> 01:07:17,580
with respect to the war effort?

1172

01:07:17,580 --> 01:07:22,738
No, no.

1173

01:07:22,738 --> 01:07:24,280
To the best of your
knowledge, do you

1174

01:07:24,280 --> 01:07:26,410
know anybody who
escaped from the ghetto

1175

01:07:26,410 --> 01:07:28,170
and survived that way?

1176

01:07:28,170 --> 01:07:38,150

1177

01:07:38,150 --> 01:07:40,470
I'm going to tell you something.

1178

01:07:40,470 --> 01:07:43,770
I know who escaped
from the ghetto.

1179

01:07:43,770 --> 01:07:49,110
I had a very, very
religious girl friend, very

1180

01:07:49,110 --> 01:07:51,750
Hasidic father.

1181

01:07:51,750 --> 01:07:57,570
Her sister went out
with a Polish soldier.

1182

01:07:57,570 --> 01:07:59,910
He stole her from the ghetto.

1183

01:07:59,910 --> 01:08:01,560
He took her away.

1184
01:08:01,560 --> 01:08:04,710
Notice that when I came
back that she was alive.

1185
01:08:04,710 --> 01:08:09,150
She was the one who smuggled
into the family food.

1186
01:08:09,150 --> 01:08:12,350

1187
01:08:12,350 --> 01:08:16,370
We went over, and
she gave us, and she

1188
01:08:16,370 --> 01:08:18,529
smuggled into the family--

1189
01:08:18,529 --> 01:08:20,899
and she was alive.

1190
01:08:20,899 --> 01:08:26,300
She I know, but with the
help from a Polish soldier

1191
01:08:26,300 --> 01:08:28,609
because he fell
in love with her.

1192
01:08:28,609 --> 01:08:32,000
And religious or no
religious-- in fact,

1193
01:08:32,000 --> 01:08:35,487
I remembered that there
was a [INAUDIBLE]..

1194
01:08:35,487 --> 01:08:38,410

1195

01:08:38,410 --> 01:08:40,602

Before I let you
leave the ghetto,

1196

01:08:40,602 --> 01:08:42,310

I want you to stop
and think for a moment

1197

01:08:42,310 --> 01:08:46,750

if there's anything else
that you want to tell me

1198

01:08:46,750 --> 01:08:49,960

about your years in the ghetto.

1199

01:08:49,960 --> 01:08:52,779

Again, you were in
the ghetto from--

1200

01:08:52,779 --> 01:08:53,890

'40 to '44.

1201

01:08:53,890 --> 01:08:56,503

1202

01:08:56,503 --> 01:08:58,670

Is there anything else that
stands out in your mind?

1203

01:08:58,670 --> 01:09:01,170

Certainly you had many, many
experiences during those years,

1204

01:09:01,170 --> 01:09:03,609

but anything you want to add?

1205

01:09:03,609 --> 01:09:05,020

Nothing special.

1206

01:09:05,020 --> 01:09:12,819

The only thing-- towards
the end, in the shop,

1207
01:09:12,819 --> 01:09:16,029
I was chosen--

1208
01:09:16,029 --> 01:09:23,890
when a garment came down from
upstairs, we were chosen by--

1209
01:09:23,890 --> 01:09:26,350
three girls.

1210
01:09:26,350 --> 01:09:33,189
And we had to put our initials,
that we look at the garments,

1211
01:09:33,189 --> 01:09:38,109
that it was no sabotage,
like a button wasn't missing

1212
01:09:38,109 --> 01:09:40,689
or one arm was left.

1213
01:09:40,689 --> 01:09:43,750
And my mother was
terribly afraid

1214
01:09:43,750 --> 01:09:48,100
that I had to put my
initial on these garments,

1215
01:09:48,100 --> 01:09:49,270
but I was chosen.

1216
01:09:49,270 --> 01:09:50,800
I couldn't say no.

1217
01:09:50,800 --> 01:09:53,380
That was very vivid to
me, and I was terribly

1218
01:09:53,380 --> 01:09:56,260
afraid to go to the shop.

1219
01:09:56,260 --> 01:09:58,510
But that's what I did.

1220
01:09:58,510 --> 01:10:01,060
Had there been many acts
of sabotage like this?

1221
01:10:01,060 --> 01:10:03,880

1222
01:10:03,880 --> 01:10:09,470
Yes, there was, not when
I looked at the government

1223
01:10:09,470 --> 01:10:12,110
and went through my--

1224
01:10:12,110 --> 01:10:14,660
If you found a government
that had been sabotaged,

1225
01:10:14,660 --> 01:10:16,790
what steps did you take?

1226
01:10:16,790 --> 01:10:19,380
I put my mind to it.

1227
01:10:19,380 --> 01:10:24,550
I would not let it
go through because it

1228
01:10:24,550 --> 01:10:30,870
wouldn't be only my life but
who knows how much they would--

1229
01:10:30,870 --> 01:10:34,460
who did it, what hands
they went through.

1230
01:10:34,460 --> 01:10:43,050

1231
01:10:43,050 --> 01:10:45,360
You said that you
had been in hiding,

1232
01:10:45,360 --> 01:10:49,470
and then you decided to just go?

1233
01:10:49,470 --> 01:10:50,440
That's in the ghetto?

1234
01:10:50,440 --> 01:10:50,940
Right.

1235
01:10:50,940 --> 01:10:51,990
Oh, I didn't decide it.

1236
01:10:51,990 --> 01:10:53,720
My mother decided.

1237
01:10:53,720 --> 01:10:55,690
You collectively-- I'm sorry.

1238
01:10:55,690 --> 01:10:56,190
I should--

1239
01:10:56,190 --> 01:10:57,480
We all went.

1240
01:10:57,480 --> 01:10:58,650
We went.

1241
01:10:58,650 --> 01:11:02,850
Tell me about what happened
from the time you left.

1242
01:11:02,850 --> 01:11:05,640
Your mother decided to go.

1243
01:11:05,640 --> 01:11:10,910
Tell me about how you were

collected and organized

1244

01:11:10,910 --> 01:11:12,580
the transport.

1245

01:11:12,580 --> 01:11:14,890
We left the hidings.

1246

01:11:14,890 --> 01:11:17,740
We went to the [PLACE NAME].

1247

01:11:17,740 --> 01:11:22,760
It was the things, and
they were very nice to us.

1248

01:11:22,760 --> 01:11:25,330
They gave us bread.

1249

01:11:25,330 --> 01:11:28,060
They took us out
with the trains--

1250

01:11:28,060 --> 01:11:32,446

1251

01:11:32,446 --> 01:11:36,610
to the big trains,
and we were shoved

1252

01:11:36,610 --> 01:11:40,060
on the trains like cattles.

1253

01:11:40,060 --> 01:11:45,760
And we were going to Auschwitz,
about 24 hours riding

1254

01:11:45,760 --> 01:11:53,150
that train, until we
saw [? arbeitslager ?]..

1255

01:11:53,150 --> 01:11:56,040
So it wasn't so bad.

1256
01:11:56,040 --> 01:11:57,200
What were used to work.

1257
01:11:57,200 --> 01:12:03,240
I was [INAUDIBLE] in the ghetto.

1258
01:12:03,240 --> 01:12:07,470
But we personally really
didn't know what's

1259
01:12:07,470 --> 01:12:11,910
Auschwitz or the other camps.

1260
01:12:11,910 --> 01:12:14,580
When you arrived
in Auschwitz, what

1261
01:12:14,580 --> 01:12:17,700
were your first impressions?

1262
01:12:17,700 --> 01:12:20,610
I want you to think
about what you could see,

1263
01:12:20,610 --> 01:12:22,690
what you could smell,
what you could hear.

1264
01:12:22,690 --> 01:12:24,360
What were your impressions?

1265
01:12:24,360 --> 01:12:32,250
My impression was when they told
us to undress, give everything

1266
01:12:32,250 --> 01:12:35,040
away, and shave our heads--

1267
01:12:35,040 --> 01:12:37,530
my head wasn't shaved--

1268

01:12:37,530 --> 01:12:40,260
shaved our heads.

1269

01:12:40,260 --> 01:12:44,910
I figured, now they
look like crazy people.

1270

01:12:44,910 --> 01:12:47,670
They shaved my mother's head.

1271

01:12:47,670 --> 01:12:51,160
They looked like crazy people.

1272

01:12:51,160 --> 01:12:54,850
So we're now in a crazy house.

1273

01:12:54,850 --> 01:13:01,090
And then they said, links,
right, left and right,

1274

01:13:01,090 --> 01:13:08,150
and to us they says, you
go left, you go left,

1275

01:13:08,150 --> 01:13:14,450
to me and to my sisters, and we
schleped my mother into the--

1276

01:13:14,450 --> 01:13:18,050
he turned over,
and we [INAUDIBLE]..

1277

01:13:18,050 --> 01:13:20,690
So we took her to
the [INAUDIBLE]..

1278

01:13:20,690 --> 01:13:23,960
Then they give us a shower.

1279

01:13:23,960 --> 01:13:26,212
So I was terribly
afraid of that shower.

1280
01:13:26,212 --> 01:13:29,050

1281
01:13:29,050 --> 01:13:38,160
They gave us something to dress,
shoes, long shoes, big shoes.

1282
01:13:38,160 --> 01:13:42,630
And they took us to a barrack.

1283
01:13:42,630 --> 01:13:46,260
What I encountered
in that barrack--

1284
01:13:46,260 --> 01:13:48,070
it was unbelievable.

1285
01:13:48,070 --> 01:13:53,790
There was a dark woman, and
she wasn't a German woman,

1286
01:13:53,790 --> 01:13:58,920
and she told us where we
are, what is there to expect,

1287
01:13:58,920 --> 01:14:01,230
and we should listen
to her, otherwise we're

1288
01:14:01,230 --> 01:14:04,170
going to die right away.

1289
01:14:04,170 --> 01:14:08,220
And I figured, this
is a Jewish girl.

1290
01:14:08,220 --> 01:14:13,734
And we were laying on
the floors, [INAUDIBLE]..

1291
01:14:13,734 --> 01:14:15,990

That was Auschwitz.

1292

01:14:15,990 --> 01:14:17,820

I'm going to pause
to change the tape.

1293

01:14:17,820 --> 01:14:19,790

Just one moment.

1294

01:14:19,790 --> 01:14:27,000